Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-023
Friday
2 February 1990

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-023 *2 February 1990*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Rejects Peres' Ideas on Delegation *[Beirut AL-SAFIR 30 Jan]* 1
PLO Leaders Discuss Intifadah, Peace Initiative *[Baghdad VOP]* 1
Comment, Criticism of Soviet Jewish Emigration 1
PNSF Message to Soviets *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 1
'Frank' Radio Talk Criticizes USSR *[Baghdad VOP]* 2
'Arafat Receives CSSR Deputy Foreign Minister 2
Invited To Visit CSSR *[Sanaa VOP]* 2
Further on Talks *[Baghdad VOP]* 2

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Mubarak's USSR Visit Reportedly Postponed *[AL-AHALI 31 Jan]* 3
Further on Ethiopian Foreign Minister's Visit 3
Dinka Makes Statement on Relations *[MENA]* 3
'Abd-al-Majid on 'Success' of Visit *[MENA]* 3
Dinka Ends Visit, Departs *[MENA]* 4
U.S. Asked To Reaffirm Policy Principles *[AL-AHRAM 30 Jan]* 4
U.S., USSR Jewish Immigration Policy Viewed *[MENA]* 4
Al-Baz Says Palestinian State 'Inevitable' *[MENA]* 5

Libya

USSR Informs Al-Qadhdhafi on Azerbaijan *[Tripoli TV]* 5
Algerian Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit *[Tripoli International]* 5
Conveys Message to Al-Qadhdhafi *[Tripoli Radio]* 5
Confers With Al-Talhi *[Tripoli Radio]* 5

Morocco

Hassan on 'Nightmare' of Soviet Jews' Emigration *[Rabat Radio]* 6
PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Arrives for Visit 31 Jan *[Rabat Radio]* 6
Received by King Hassan *[Rabat Radio]* 6
Issues Statement, Departs *[Rabat Radio]* 6

Sudan

Military Governor Blames Rebels for Fighting *[Omdurman Radio]* 7
Area Around Yei Said Cleared of 'Outlaws' *[SUNA]* 8
Armed Forces Claims Victory West of Juba *[Omdurman Radio]* 8
95 Rebels Killed *[Omdurman Radio]* 8
Occupies Lanya 31 Jan *[Omdurman Radio]* 8
SPLA Denies Armed Forces Victory Claims 8
Radio Commentary Says Garang Serving 'Zionists' *[Omdurman Radio]* 9

Western Sahara

Envoy to Algeria Comments on Peace Prospects *[Algiers Radio]* 10
Algiers Reports Polisario, UN Officials Meet *[Algiers Radio]* 10
Perez de Cuellar Discusses Peace Settlement *[APS]* 10

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Al-'Usaymi News Conference Addresses Immigration *[KUNA]* 11
Minister of State Meets With Indian Visitor *[KUNA]* 12

Saudi Arabia

Three Saudi Diplomats Killed in Bangkok *[SPA]* 12
Commentator Views U.S. Middle East Initiative *[Riyadh Radio]* 12
'Official Source' Denies Report on Meeting *[SPA]* 13

Yemen Arab Republic

President Salih Returns From U.S., France *[Sanaa Radio]* 13

ISRAEL

Moscow Radio Cited on Continued 'Free Emigration' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 14
Pamyat Denies Pogroms Planned Against Jews *[Jerusalem Radio]* 14
Ben-Aharon on Al-Husayni as Delegate to Talks *[Jerusalem TV]* 14
Shamir Sends Own Invitations; Likud Might Split *[THE JERUSALEM POST 2 Feb]* 15
Poll: Majority of Likud Supporters Back Shamir *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 2 Feb]* 16
Shamir Dismisses EC Attack on Immigration Policy *[Jerusalem Radio]* 16
Shamir 'Convinced' of Better Ties With Hungary *[Jerusalem Radio]* 17
Foreign Ministry Issues Communique on GDR Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 17
'Sources': 'Arafat Resignation Threat 'Serious' *['AL HAMISHMAR 1 Feb]* 17
Magnetic Exit Card Plan in West Bank Postponed *[HADASHOT 1 Feb]* 17
Stoning Incidents Prompt 5 Gaza School Closings *[Jerusalem TV]* 17
Suspected Collaborator Beaten, Dies of Hemorrhage *[Jerusalem Radio]* 18

JORDAN

Husayn Says Changes Warrant Strong Arab Nation *[Amman Radio]* 19
Husayn: Israel Trying To Absorb More Immigrants *[Amman TV]* 19
Syria, Jordan Sign Transportation Minutes *[Amman Radio]* 19
House Deputies Debate 1990 Budget Draft *[JORDAN TIMES 28 Jan]* 19

LEBANON

Al-Hirawi Ready To Intervene in East Beirut *[Paris Radio]* 24
Further Reportage on Continuing 'Awn-LF Conflict 24
Calm Continues *[VOL]* 24
'Heavy Fighting' Resumes 2 Feb *[Beirut Radio]* 24
'Awn Forces Shell East Beirut *[VOL]* 24
LF Disarm NLP Headquarters *[Beirut Radio]* 24
Clashes, Shelling Reported *[RFL]* 24
Artillery Bombards LF Headquarters *[VOL]* 25
'Awn Positions Shelled *[Voice of National Resistance]* 25
'Awn Forces Fire on Mountain Area *[VOM]* 25
Three Injured in Southern Suburb *[Beirut Radio]* 25
'Awn Launches 'Major Offensive' *[Beirut Radio]* 25
'Awn Forces Seize LF Barracks *[VOM]* 25
'Some' in Eastern Areas 'Burning' *[VOL]* 26

'Awn Claims Syrians Helping LF *[VOL]* 26
'Awn Withdraws Brigades From Fronts *[RFL]* 26
'Awn Gives Speedboats to Syrians *[RFL]* 26
LF Recapture Antilyas Position *[RFL]* 26
Lebanese Forces Statement on Fighting Resumption *[VOL]* 27
More on Statement *[RFL]* 27
VOL Interviews Lebanese Forces' Ja'ja' 27
Maronite Patriarch Contacts 'Awn, Ja'ja' *[VOL]* 29
Cease-Fire Agreement Reported Reached 2 Feb *[VOL]* 29
Red Cross Appeals for Truce To Help Victims *[VOL]* 29
Attacks on Lahd, Israeli Positions Reported *[Beirut Radio]* 29

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

'Text' of Najibullah's 24 Jan News Conference *[BAKHTAR]* 31

India

Singh Warns Pakistan Against 'Meddling in Kashmir' *[Delhi Radio]* 37
ISI Carries Spokesman's Statement on Pakistan 38
Kashmir Valley 'Peaceful'; No Incidents Reported *[Delhi Radio]* 38
Kashmir 'Near Normal'; People Meet Governor *[Delhi Radio]* 38
Qian Qichen 'Likely To Visit India in March' *[Delhi Radio]* 38
Gandhi Pledges Cooperation on Kashmir Issue *[Delhi Radio]* 38
Congress-I Official on 'Blatant Interference' *[Delhi Radio]* 39
Communist Parties Urge Firm Stand on Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 39
Deputy Premier on Punjab Polls, Kashmir Issue *[Delhi Radio]* 39
Naxalites Release 12; Negotiations Continue *[ISI]* 39

Iran

President Welcomes Approval of 5-Year Plan *[Tehran Radio]* 39
Ahmad Khomeyni Discusses U.S., West *[Tehran Radio]* 40
Embassy Denies Iran Masterminded Paris Bombings *[AFP]* 42
Baku TV Shows Mourners, Koran Recitations *[Tehran Radio]* 42
*Time For Afghan Refugees To Go Home *[TEHRAN TIMES 10 Dec]* 42

Pakistan

Ishaq Khan, Azad Jammu, Kashmir Premier Meet *[Islamabad Radio]* 43
'Week of Solidarity' With Kashmiris Begins *[Islamabad Radio]* 43
Police Fire on Kashmiri Procession; 10 Injured *[AFP]* 43
Sind Spokesman Comments on Hyderabad Situation *[Islamabad Radio]* 43

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Rejects Peres' Ideas on Delegation

NC0102165590 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 30 Jan 90 p 8

[By Amin Radwan]

[Excerpt] Cairo: Informed sources in Cairo have said that, during his recent visit to Cairo, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat told Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid that Israel is clearly prevaricating and that it does not want the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue to start or elections to be held in the occupied territories this year. Thus it will be able to implement its own policy of settling Soviet Jews in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The sources added that 'Arafat showed 'Abd-al-Majid important documents on Israel's implementation of a four-stage plan to complete the settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied territories. Each one of these stages will take 3 months, with the final stage to be completed by the end of this year.

'Arafat called for a united Arab stand to confront the Israeli attempts to settle Soviet Jews in the occupied territories. He also called for an extraordinary Arab summit, at which a committee would be formed that would contact international powers and the United Nations in order to ensure the implementation of the Arab summit's resolutions.

The sources noted Egypt's emphasis on the necessity to make proper preparations before calling for an extraordinary Arab summit and its view that this should be held after the proposed tripartite meeting in Washington, so that the summit may be briefed on the detailed stands of the U.S. Administration and Israel.

The sources added that 'Arafat rejected the ideas put forward by Israeli Finance Minister Shim'on Peres during his recent visit to Cairo. Peres proposed that the Palestinian delegation should be chosen from an Israeli-prepared list of 40 Palestinian personalities, selected through Israeli contacts with Palestinian figures in the occupied territories. [passage omitted]

PLO Leaders Discuss Intifadah, Peace Initiative

JN0102205990 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1932 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] The Palestinian leadership has met in Tunis to discuss Palestinian and related developments. Taking part in the meetings chaired by brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] were brothers PLO Executive Committee members, as well as secretaries general and representatives of PLO factions. The conferees discussed intifadah developments, emphasizing that national steadfastness as embodied in the intifadah and our people's resolve to further escalate it are true expressions of the Palestinian will despite Israel's political arrogance and its oppression and repression of our people. Also underscored was our people's determination to pursue their struggle until just peace is realized in the spirit of the Palestinian peace initiative which provides for our people's rights to repatriation, self-determination, and statehood on Palestinian soil.

The conferees agreed that the constants specified in the resolutions of the Palestine Central Council are based on the peace initiative and that the Palestine National Council resolutions form the starting point of the Palestinian approach to all issues, including the proposed Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. The meeting also emphaszied that any attempt to prejudice the basis of a just solution as outlined by the peace initiative will be thwarted by all our people inside and outside the occupied land. Such attempts will be held responsible for wrecking the peace efforts and leading them to a dead-end, thus driving the region to the precipice of an explosion threatening world peace. This will be incompatible with the present climate of international detente.

Comment, Criticism of Soviet Jewish Emigration

PNSF Message to Soviets

JN0102194790 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] In a message to the Soviet leadership today, the Palestine National Salvation Front [PNSF] drew attention to the dangers posed by the immigration of Soviet Jews into Palestine, given that it constitutes a dangerous threat to the historical relations of friendship between the Palestinian people and the Arab nation on the one hand and the Soviet people on the other, and also in view of the fact that the immigration is linked to the aggressive Zionist settlement plan. This plan is aimed against Palestine and the Palestine question, which is our Arab nation's central issue.

In its message to the Soviet leadership, the PNSF denounced the influx of Soviet Jews into Palestine and called for a halt to emigration. The message said: We do not consider opening the doors to emigration a policy that reflects human rights, as it takes place at the expense of the Palestinian people's rights and inflicts the heaviest damage on their national cause. The message added: The emigration of Soviet Jews gravely harms our people's valiant intifadah for which the Soviet Union has stressed its support and backing.

The message urged the Soviet leadership to reconsider its emigration policy so as to maintain the Soviet Union's credibility, well known by the Arab masses and their militant forces and all forces that advocate peace and freedom.

'Frank' Radio Talk Criticizes USSR

JN0102214290 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1955 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers: [Passage indistinct] No one can take the risk and face this sweeping tide of one of the currently most comprehensive destruction processes to rebuild on modern and advanced humanitarian bases.

It might concern us to express an opinion as we live in the same world and because developments in one country do not only affect the citizens of this country but also might affect other citizens and other states. In any event, we will resort to this in one case that affects our fate and threatens our life; that is, the Soviet Jews' immigration to Palestine.

There is no doubt that freedom of movement and travel, and even emigration are basic human rights. Ignoring these rights is encroaching upon them. However, all these liberties will turn into disasters, and granting and practicing these liberties will be a kind of aggression and crime against [passage indistinct]. We must stop to wonder whether the USSR is granting rights that result in inflicting great harm on other people's rights; in other words, granting individual rights that will result in crimes and violations of people's rights.

It is possible to camouflage our speech and use polished words and sentences while speaking about our friends the Soviets. However, because they are our friends we should be frank with them, because enabling the Soviet Jewish citizen to exercise his right to emigration will not achieve the great objectives of the Soviet administration. On the contrary, this will give a purport that will be used to upset the demographic balance between the Arab Palestinians and the Jews. Consequently, it places the Palestinian fortunes in the balance more than at any time before, especially since what the Soviets perceive to be human rights [words indistinct] the United States will close its borders in the worst compulsion of these [passage indistinct]. Emigration is not one of individuals but involves thousands and its aim has grown clear both to the Americans and the Israelis.

As we say this, we are being honest with the friendly Soviet people and Government and at the same time call on all the Arabs throughout the Arab world—peoples and governments, parties, and unions—to stand up to this terroritstic [word indistinct] that risks the annihilation of the Palestinians just as it does the Arab future and destiny.

'Arafat Receives CSSR Deputy Foreign Minister

Invited To Visit CSSR

JN0102193990 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has received an official invitation from Czechoslovak President Havel to visit the CSSR. The invitation was extended when 'Arafat received a Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry delegation headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Bartoskova. The Czechoslovak ambassador in Tunis was also present. Bartoskova also extended an official invitation from Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier to brother Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department. The Czechoslovak diplomat reiterated her country's support for Palestinian self-determination and its ability to continue to play a mediating role to find a just, comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem. She also explained the recent democratic changes in Czechoslovakia.

Further on Talks

JN0102213390 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1932 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Brother leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received an official invitation to visit the CSSR from President Vaclav Havel during a meeting with a CSSR Foreign Ministry delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister Bartoskova. The meeting was attended by the CSSR ambassador in Tunis.

Bartoskova relayed an official invitation to brother Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, extended to him by Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier.

On the occasion, the CSSR diplomat reiterated her government's support for our Palestinian people's right to self-determination and voiced her country's readiness to continue to play a mediating role in efforts to find a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestine question. During the meeting, Bartoskova explained the democratic developments and changes that have recently taken place in the CSSR.

Brother leader president Abu-'Ammar briefed the CSSR delegation on the latest developments pertaining to the Palestine question and our Palestinian people's intifadah inside the occupied territories, in view of stepped-up Israeli repression and terrorism. Moreover, brother leader president Abu-'Ammar declared that the PLO respects the CSSR people's will and democratic option. Brother leader president Abu-'Ammar stressed the need to susbscribe to the formula calling for an international Middle East peace conference under UN auspices and with the participation of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, as well as all parties to the conflict, including the PLO.

Egypt

Mubarak's USSR Visit Reportedly Postponed

JN0202113690 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 31 Jan 90 p 1

[Text] President Mubarak's visit to Moscow, scheduled for March, has been postponed. It will take place before the end of the first half of this year. Contacts are currently under way to fix the final date of the visit. The postponement came as a result of certain obstacles that arose in connection with the recent political events in the Soviet Union. A diplomatic source told AL-AHALI that the postponement would benefit the anticipated visit in leading to positive results and definite aims concerning future Egyptian-Soviet relations.

Diplomatic sources said a large number of the agreements that were scheduled to be signed during the visit will be concluded by the two countries on the ministerial level. A 3-year trade protocol and an industrial agreement have already been signed in Moscow and Cairo respectively. These will be followed by other agreements. The sources said that only a long-term agreement would be signed during the expected visit and preparations for this agreement are currently under way. A high-ranking delegation is also expected to leave Cairo in February to discuss the broad lines of this agreement with Soviet officials.

Further on Ethiopian Foreign Minister's Visit

Dinka Makes Statement on Relations

NC0102171390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 1 Feb (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, met today with Tesfaye Dinka, Ethiopian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, who is currently visiting Cairo.

Hasan Jad-al-Haq, head of the African Department at the Foreign Ministry, and Egyptian Ambassador in Ethiopia Robert Iskandar attended the meeting.

In a statement after the meeting, the Ethiopian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs categorically denied the reports that Ethiopia has given two islands in the Red Sea to Israel. He said that these reports are fabrications aimed at harming and creating problems in relations between Ethiopia and Egypt and the entire Arab world. He also stressed that his country is not giving any support or aid to the rebels in south Sudan. He said that Ethiopia is playing a mediating role, helping Sudan and the rebels to sit and meet together in Addis Ababa, at the highest level, to solve their problems. Eight or nine meetings have in fact been held in Ethiopia for that purpose, he said.

The Ethiopian official added: The restoration of Ethiopian-Israeli relations will not be at the expense of other countries and will also not be at the expense of our strong relations with the Arab countries or of our understanding, backing, and principled support for the Palestinian people's struggle.

He described his country's relations with Egypt as extremely good, stressing the desire to boost them in the future. He noted that the intensive meetings he held during his visit to Cairo will strengthen bilateral relations.

Asked about the meeting of the Nile Basin countries group (UNDUGO), which will be held in Khartoum on 26 February, and whether Ethiopia will attend the meeting, Tsefaye said that Ethiopia will deal directly with Egypt on all issues related to water so that there can be a better understanding of the issue.

About some construction work that the Israeli company (Tajak) is carrying out on the Nile, Tsefaye said that this is a very small consultative company that is working among dozens of other companies in the southeastern part of Ethiopia and that there is no connection between what is taking place in that area and the Nile. He added that his country began these projects a long time ago.

Tsefaye was asked whether the purpose of his visit to Egypt was to deny the reports that Israel is building dams on the Nile and has rented two islands. He said the purpose of his trip was to visit a friendly country and not to deny such fabricated reports. He added that he had handed President Husni Mubarak a message from Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam on bilateral relations. He declared that the two presidents' relations are extremely good. They have met several times, he said, and this is another occasion for them to exchange views on bilateral relations.

The Ethiopian official also said that he and Egyptian officials discussed the issue of security in the Red Sea, freedom of passage and navigation in it, and the historical bilateral relations between Egypt and Ethiopia which are two of the Nile Basin countries. He added that the two countries' rights to the Nile waters are just and reasonable.

'Abd-al-Majid on 'Success' of Visit

NC0102171890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 1 Feb (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that the visit of Ethiopian envoy Tesfaye Dinka, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, achieved great success. He said that the talks held during the visit underlined Ethiopia's concern for Egypt's interests in the River Nile.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid added that the Ethiopian envoy confirmed that there are no projects on the River Nile that harm Egypt's interests.

He also said that Egyptian-Ethiopian relations are good. He stressed Egypt's desire to continue coordination and

consultation with Ethiopia on all issues that concern the two countries on the basis of the cordial relations of friendship between Presidents Husni Mubarak and Mengistu Haile Mariam and the two peoples.

Dinka Ends Visit, Departs

NC0202072890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0710 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 2 Feb (MENA)—Tesfaye Dinka, Ethiopian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, and his accompanying delegation left here early this morning after a 3-day visit to Egypt. During his stay, the Ethiopian official delivered a message to President Mubarak from Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam and held talks with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs. He was seen off at the airport by Ambassador Hasan Jad-al-Haq, head of the African Department at the Foreign Ministry.

U.S. Asked To Reaffirm Policy Principles

JN0102164190 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 30 Jan 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Starting Points"]

[Text] Perhaps the United States might be required at this point in time to reaffirm its principles or starting points which have so far been entrenched in its political conscience with respect to the Palestine question, having been relatively distanced from these principles by its longstanding controversy with Israel.

Such reaffirmation will not only revive the main U.S. principles but will inevitably intensify current efforts by preventing their being wasted on marginal issues, and more importantly, prevent some people, skilled in beating around the bush, in deception, and in forcing a return to square one, from throwing these principles into disarray.

The most important of these principles, as has been manifested and crystallized ever since the Bush administration took office precisely a year ago, is: ending the Israeli occupation and securing the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people through a negotiated settlement that would lead to an international peace conference at a convenient time, with emphasis on the need to halt the establishment of new settlements and guaranteeing Israel's security and the security of the other sides.

While it is true that Washington has said it wants to avoid leaking information on the development of this issue to the press, especially with regard to current consultations, reaffirmation of the above principles is an issue that transcends this self-imposed ban because they have no connection with any proposals by this or that side. In other words, from the American viewpoint, circumstances may warrant that the secrets of deliberations be kept undisclosed until such time when agreement has been reached on something that could be announced. However, this of course does not apply to the principles on which U.S. policy has been based, principles whose reaffirmation at this point might impart trust and reassurance, and hence a motive to crystallize the current stands with the aim of developing other necessary elements.

Reaffirmation will certainly not be harmful but beneficial. Failure to reaffirm these principles and a tendency to keep silent, especially if this silence is in response to a public or private desire by certain parties, might cast some unnecessary doubts and give the impression that certain behind-the-scene compromises are being considered.

U.S., USSR Jewish Immigration Policy Viewed

NC0202102690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0640 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 2 Feb (MENA)—AL-AHRAM and AL-JUMHURIYAH stress in their Friday editions that Moscow's and Washington's denunciation of Israel's plans to settle Soviet immigrants in the occupied Arab territories are not enough. The papers point out that it seems impossible to verify whether Washington complies with its declaration that it has not provided and will not provide any funds for the settlement of the Jewish immigrants.

Under the headline "Denunciations Not Enough", AL-AHRAM says that the United States can, if it wants to, halt the settlement of the Jewish immigrants in the occupied Arab territories, which is putting the entire peace process in jeopardy. It has already linked the payment of its aid to Israel to a clear-cut and unequivocal committment by Israel not to settle any new immigrants in the occupied territories. The paper points out that any other measure will only encourage Israel to proceed along this road, which is fraught with risks.

The paper adds that the Soviet Union, which is fully aware of the dimensions of the Palestinian issue, could use the card of granting permission to Soviet Jews to immigrate to give impetus to the peace process by obtaining prior commitments from Israel that it will not settle these immigrants in the occupied territories. Otherwise, the Arabs and Palestinians will be the first in the Third World to pay for perestroyka and glasnost with the reinforcement of the illegitimate occupation of the Palestinian Arab territories.

Under the headline "Jewish Immigration and Salvaging Peace," AL-JUMHURIYAH writes that one cannot but be greatly astonished at the departure of Jews from the Soviet Union on the grounds of human rights. The two superpowers fail to realize that this very departure is in itself a crime against a people whose homeland is under occupation by foreign forces, which are today being

reinforced by immigrants from Moscow and financial assistance from Washington, which itself declined to receive immigrants.

The paper adds that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has called for a serious approach to the issue of the Soviet Jews, which poses a grave threat to peace and stability in the Middle East and the world.

The paper stresses the need to discuss this issue with Soviet officials and the U.S. Administration, not only to contain its negative effects, but also to find possible ways to accelerate the search for a just and comprehensive peace and to remove this time bomb from the hands of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and the remaining hawks in Israel.

Al-Baz Says Palestinian State 'Inevitable'

NC0102063890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2219 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jan (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs, has affirmed that the establishment of a Palestinian state is inevitable despite Israel's attempts to obstruct it. He said that the establishment of a Palestinian state is the only solution to the Palestinian problem.

Speaking at a symposium held this evening on the sidelines of the Cairo international book fair, Dr. Al-Baz said that the Palestinian people are among the strongest Arab peoples and cannot be annihilated.

He said that if the Israeli people and their institutions agree to a settlement of the Palestinian issue and to the establishment of a Palestinian state, the possibility of war between the Arabs and Israel will greatly diminish.

He noted that the idea of peace between Egypt and Israel made many Israelis take a different view of Egypt and the Arabs. He said that 52 percent of the Israeli people are currently prepared to deal with the PLO, compared to more than 3 percent 10 years ago.

Libya

USSR Informs Al-Qadhdhafi on Azerbaijan

LD0102210590 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Concerning the situation in Azerbaijan, the Soviet leadership has informed the brother leader of the great al-Fatih revolution of the following clarifications:

1. The conflict between the Azeris and the Armenians is not a religious conflict, but has nationalist causes, and the conflict on the soil of the region of Nagorno-Karabakh, which is situated inside Azerbaijan—an autonomous republic directly linked to the central authority—is not the first of its kind.

The Armenians invaded Nagorno-Karabkh in the past and brought it under their control, a matter that the Azeris saw as a provocation that must be confronted by force.

2. The task of the Soviet Army is to separate the warring sides, as both sides have perpetrated horrendeous acts, and likewise, the Soviet Army is not party to the conflict on either side.

3. It is not in the intention of the Soviet Army to stay, it will leave as soon as matters settle down there, and the Soviet leadership encourages negotiation between the two sides to attain a solution.

4. As the situation improves, the Soviet leadership will bring the brother leader all information as soon as the situation settles down.

The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Information and Culture, who has recently concluded a visit to the Soviet Union, conveyed the Soviet leadership's clarifications to the brother leader.

Algerian Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

LD3001222590 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Brother Ahmed Seyed Ghazali, foreign minister of sister Algeria, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli this evening for a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Conveys Message to Al-Qadhdhafi

LD3101141490 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received today brother Ahmed seyed Ghazali, Algerian foreign minister, who conveyed to the brother leader a message from President Chadli Bendjedid.

Confers With Al-Talhi

LD3101144690 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] The brother secretary of the People's Bureau for External Liaison and International Cooperation [Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Tahli] conferred this morning with brother Seyed Ahmed Ghazali, Algerian foreign minister, who is currently visiting the Great Jamahiriyah.

Durign the meeting they discussed and reviewed numerous subjects concerning the affairs of the Arab Maghreb Union and the joint coperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and fraternal Algeria in all fields.

Morocco

Hassan on 'Nightmare' of Soviet Jews' Emigration

LD0102215790 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Speech by King Hassan II to Arab towns organization permanent bureau; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] Thanks be to God, prayers and peace upon our master and prophet and his companions.

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. Before I tackle the issue of your meeting in Marrakech, I would like on my behalf and on behalf of the Moroccan people to express our gratitude, respect, and admiration to the unfortunate occupied and struggling Arab towns, foremost of which is Jerusalem. Let it be known to you, may God protect you, that no single day passes by without our hearts feeling the degree of sadness of the occupation [words indistinct.]

Stemming from this, I would like to publicly announce the nightmare of Soviet Jews' emigration to the occupied territories, haunting the Arab nation, is considered as a catastrophe similar to that of 1967. We do not deny the Soviet Jews the right to visit Israel, and will not deprive them of their right to have contact with their people and land. However, the thing we do not accept is them coming to Israel, and consequently to the Arab occupied land, without a passport enabling them to leave Israel whenever they wish to do so. This is a policy of settlement, and a policy of colonialism that simultaneously ignores human rights and the right of the homeland as far as the Palestinians are concerned. It also ignores the human rights of the Soviet Jews who are being shipped and transported like cattle without granting them freedom of exit or movement or choice of place. Therefore, I am confident all our brothers, kings, presidents, and leaders of Arab countries share our opinion and support us in our position. We will allow ourselves to talk on their behalf today and say: By God this is unfair, and we must encourage world public opinion to look into this issue not only from the angle of squandering Arabs' rights, but from the angle of destroying the rights of the Soviets as well, since they are being transported to a country and deprived of freedom of identity and passport; that is, they are not enjoying basic human rights. [passage omitted].

PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Arrives for Visit 31 Jan

LD3101213290 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, arrived in our country this evening. [passage omitted]

Following the welcoming ceremony in the airport VIP lounge, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed accompanied the president of the state of Palestine to his residence in Marrakesh. The Palestinian president is accompanied on this visit by PLO Central Committee members Abu-Mazin [Mahmud al-'Abbas] and Hakam Bal'awi.

Received by King Hassan

LD0102095790 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II, accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed, received yesterday evening in the Royal Palace in Marrakech Yasir 'Arafat, head of the state of Palestine, and held a tete-a-tete with him. After that, His Majesty King Hassan II, accompanied by Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed and the Palestinian president, chaired a joint working session of the Moroccan and Palestinian delegations.

The session was attended from the Palestinian side by Abu-Mazin [Mahmud al-'Abbas], member of the PLO Executive Committee; Hakam Bal'awi, Palestinian representative in Tunisia and member of the Fatah Central Committee; Muhammad Milhim, member of PLO Executive Committee and head of the Palestinian delegation to the 9th conference of the Arab Towns Organization; and Abu-Marwan [proper name unknown], Palestinian representative in Rabat.

The session was attended from the Moroccan side by Messrs. Moulay Ahmed Alaoui, minister of state; Abdellatif Filali, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation; Ahmed Rede Guedira and Ahmed Ben-Souda, His Majesty's advisors; Driss Basri, minister of interior and information; and General Abdelak Kadri, director of the Bureau of Research and Documents.

After the session, Yasir 'Arafat presented His Majesty with a symbolic present, which was an engraved sword. After that His Majesty King Hassan II, accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed, offered a dinner banquet in honour of the head of the state of Palestine. The banquet was attended by the members of the Moroccan and Palestinian delegations.

Issues Statement, Departs

LD0102172190 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Yasir 'Arafat left Marrakech-Menara Airport today. [passage omitted]

Before his departure, president of the state of Palestine Yasir 'Arafat gave us the following statement:

As is known, we always come to this part of the world (?to consult) with our brothers in Morocco, the foremost of whom is his majesty the king, on all matters, at all times, and on all topics which face the Palestinian cause. There was a good opportunity yesterday to meet with his majesty the king both in the private meeting with him and in the bilateral Palestinian-Morocco meeting. In this

meeting we covered a number of important issues concerning the Palestinian cause, at the forefront of which is support for our people who are steadfast inside the occupied territories, and support for this blessed uprising which will continue, with God's help, until the Palestinian flag is raised over holy Jerusalem, the capital of the state of Palestine.

The talks dealt also with a number of developments taking place on the international arena as far as the Palestinian and all the Arab situation are concerned, in light of the changes taking place in the world, including the changes in Eastern Europe. We also talked about the resolutions of the Arab extraordinary summit which was held recently in Casablanca and it was agreed, with the help of God Almighty and considering that his majesty the king is in charge of implementing the resolutions of this summit, to set up a special committee in charge of the Palestine cause to take action at international level, to face the developments taking place at local, Arab, and international levels, and to support the Palestinian cause at all these levels.

Thanks to God, yesterday the king expressed his determination, in the presence of the Palestinian delegation, to set up this committee and it is expected that messages will be sent to inform the Arab leaders of this blessed event which will contribute effectively and positively to boost the Palestinian action at all these levels.

On this occasion, I would like to address thanks and appreciation to his majesty the king and to the Moroccan people for their fraternal and positive stands in support of the Palestinian struggle and their brothers, the struggling Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

After the visit, the following joint communique was issued:

In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate, and may God's blessings be upon our master Muhammad, his kinfolk and his companions. A joint Moroccan-Palestinian communique:

By invitation of His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco, and in completion of their talks in the fraternal city of Tunis, His Excellency president Yasir 'Arafat paid a working visit to the Kingdom of Morocco Wednesday 3 Rajab 1410, and was received by Prince Sidi Mohamed, crown prince of the Kingdom of Morocco, by ministers of the kingdom, high ranking civilian and military personalities, the ambassador of the state of Palestine to Morocco, and by members of the embassy.

In the evening, His Majesty King Hassan II received his great guest and the delegation accompanying him, and talks were held between the Moroccan delegation under the leadership of his majesty, and the Palestinian delegation under the leadership of His Excellency president 'Arafat, during which they reviewed Arab and Islamic issues, particularly the Palestine cause and its developments on the international arena.

With regard to contents of these talks and with reference to the resolution of the Arab extraordinary summit conference of Casablanca last year, his majesty said he would, in consultation with his brother the president of the state of Palestine, set up an Arab higher committee to make international efforts to solve the Palestinian issue, he did so, and his majesty wil invite participants to its convening as soon as possible.

These talks, which were held in the great royal palace in the city of Marrakech, were attended on the Palestinian side by Mahmud Abbas, [known as] Abu-Mazin; and Messrs Muhammad Milhim, member of the PLO Executive Committee: Hakam Bal'awi, member of the Fatah Central Committee and ambassador of the state of Palestine to the Tunisian Republic; Abu-Marwan, member of the Fatah Revolutionary Council and ambassador of the state of Palestine to the Moroccan Kingdom. The talks were also attended on the Moroccan side by his royal highness the beloved Crown Prince, Prince Sidi Mohamed; Minister of State Moulay Ahmed Alaoui; Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdelatif Filali; Minister of the Interior and Infomation Driss Basri; and his majesty's advisers Messrs Ahmed Reda Guedira and Ahmed Bensouda, as well as General Abdelhak Kadiri.

After the talks, His Majesty King Hassan II invited his great guest and the members of the two delegations to a banquet dinner which was held in honor of His Excellency president Yasir 'Arafat. At the end, his majesty bade farewell to his guest, His Excellency Yasir 'Arafat, who addressed thanks and appreciation to his majesty, his wise government, and his brave people for their courageous and continuous stances for the triumph of the Palestine cause and holy Jerusalem.

Issued in Marrakech on Thursday 4 Rajab 1410, corresponding to 1 February 1990.

Sudan

Military Governor Blames Rebels for Fighting

EA3101173690 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Staff Major General Allison Manani Magaya, the military governor of Equatoria Region, has held the outlaws responsible for the cease-fire violation and the escalation of military operations in Equatoria Region.

He praised the security measures taken in defence of Juba and the general mobilization, which had been completed and which thus reduced casualties. He said the Armed Forces' morale is high.

This came in a speech he delivered in Juba on the occasion of the graduation of the third class of game wardens. Maj Gen Manani Magaya confirmed the government's support for the efforts to achieve peace through dialogue. He said the government never hesitated in defending this part of the homeland. He called

on the game wardens to cooperate with the Armed Forces and other organized forces and the citizens. Maj Gen Magaya declared the selection of staff Major General Nasr al-Din Sulayman, as the new commander for the Equatoria Military Area. He called on everyone to cooperate with him in carrying out his duties in the conditions which the region was facing.

Area Around Yei Said Cleared of 'Outlaws'

EA0102185990 Khartoum SUNA in English 1011 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 1, (SUNA)—The Armed Forces (?have been) able to (?clear) [words indistinct] area around Yei town south of Juba in Equatoria region of the outlaws, a military source [words indistinct].

The source added that the Armed Forces were in control of the situation inside (?Yei) affirming that life in the town (?is) normal.

"The rebellion forces, who are scattered outside combat zones around [words indistinct] suffered heavy losses [words indistinct] military source said, adding that the Armed Forces are continuing operations to totally secure the area.

Armed Forces Claims Victory West of Juba

EA0102214090 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Dear listeners in beloved Equatoria [words indistinct] here is the statement issued by the Equatoria military region this morning. [passage omitted]

In fulfillment of the promise, and in the execution of the promise by the Armed Forces to defend the homeland from every robber and sinful aggressor, our heroic Armed Forces in Equatoria have executed the task assigned to them [word indistinct] fighting.

Our heroic Armed Forces in Western Equatoria have attacked the outlaws near Lanya town [63 miles west of Juba]. They launched an attack on the outlaws' camp near Lanya Town and inflicted heavy casualties in lives and equipment. Our forces captured a T-55 tank in good condition, which was being used by the outlaws. In this battle, our heroic forces lost eight martyrs. [passage omitted]

95 Rebels Killed

EA0202064090 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Our heroic forces in Western Nuer area, Upper Nile Region, have launched massive and successful mopping-up operations, and attacked the enemy camps in Nubai Tong island, killing 95 rebels, including 1st Lieutenant Outlaw Azikang, commander of Pam camp. Our forces lost seven martyrs in this battle. [passage omitted]

Occupies Lanya 31 Jan

EA0202065290 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] The heroic Armed Forces at 1800 yesterday occupied the Lanya area after a ferocious battle with the outlaws. Our forces seized a T-55 tank in good condition and a large quantity of artillery pieces and ammunition including an RPT [expansion unknown] gun. Eight of our heroes were martyred in this battle while the outlaws suffered a great number of dead and injured. Our heroic forces are, up to this time, unable to count them.

A military source remarked that the presence of the T-55 tank in this battle with the outlaws indicates beyond any doubt the interference of a neighboring country on the side of the outlaws in their military operations in western and eastern Equatoria.

It is worth mentioning that, transport between Khartoum and Juba, and Juba and Nairobi is continuing and in fact never stopped at all. The transport of sorghum and food to the citizens in Juba town and the surrounding area has begun.

SPLA Denies Armed Forces Victory Claims

EA3101210390 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Compatriots, SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] combatants in the field, I greet you in the name of our revolutionary armed struggle, and welcome to this edition of your program "With the Battalions."

Comrades-in-struggle, the junta in Khartoum, after failing to make the ends meet in the issue of war and peace, and after obstructing the passage of humanitarian assistance to the needy population—a move which the junta thought would force these starving people to look to them for help—the junta now swallows its own pride to the inevitable. [sentence as heard]

'Umar al-Bashir's ill-advised and wishful thinking that he could resolve the country's problem by military means confirms that the junta is sailing off the course of peace.

After their rejecting the necessary prerequisites for the the attainment of a comprehensive peace in the Sudan, as witnessed at the Nairobi talks between the movement and the junta, Brigadier [as heard] 'Umar al-Bashir's junta chose military offensive, which they mistakenly thought would put them at the top of things and give them the license to further consolidate their repression of the Sudanese people as a means to further entrench themselves.

As the junta's warmongering has fiercely turned against them, with the sweeping SPLA victories in Western

Equatoria and southern Kurdufan, the junta's Equatoria command in Juba now tries to console their soldiers who have lost fighting morale.

Three days ago, the junta announced over Radio Omdurman that their forces have killed 130 SPLA soldiers around Juba, and further claimed that they have dislodged the SPLA from around Juba. If these claims are true, then what caused junta's force to flee from around Gondokoro across the bridge to Juba on January 21st 1990?

These blatant lies by the junta also aim at obstructing the evacuation of the besieged towns in Western Equatoria, including Juba, by civilian population—a barbaric attempt by Khartoum to use human shields for propaganda expediency. It is to tell the world that the situation around Juba is normal, and that there is no threat to civilians, that the junta shamelessly lie to the people.

Even more contradictory was the announcement by the Equatoria command that the shelling of Juba on 21st January 1990 resulted in civilian casualties. How then could a dislodged SPLA force, presumably no longer around Juba as claimed by Khartoum, could at the same time shell Juba?

Definitely, the junta is preventing the civilian population from avoiding falling victims to stray bullets and stray bombs. The junta's forces in the besieged towns have been and continue to associate civilians trying to leave contested areas with the SPLA, accusing such civilians of collaboration with the SPLA, and thereby to justify their atrocities. It is the junta's lack of feelings for innocent lives and increasing genocide that they are now exposing civilian population in their besieged towns to the inevitable tragedy.

It is further confirmation of SPLM-SPLA's [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army] consistent objectives to bring about justice in the country and the movement's respect for innocent lives as carried by the movement's repeated appeal to civilian population to leave the contested besieged towns and avoid being caught in cross-fire.

With the wave now blowing [as heard] fiercely against the junta, 'Umar al-Bashir should now step back on stage, this time to convince the Sudanese masses and his own soldiers that his warmongering and launching of military offensive was not ill-advised.

With his announced 2-months' deadline in which the SPLA would have been wiped out, now expired, since the Brigadier al-Bashir had branded of military solution of the country's problem by implying that there was no need to come to dialogue with the SPLA which will be defeated and wiped out, how now could Brigadier 'Umar al-Bashir convince the Sudanese masses and the peace-loving community of the world that his policies could not but bring only disaster to the country? [sentence as heard].

The junta's shallow-mindedness and wishful thinking culminated in the junta launching their offensive against the SPLA which resulted in their loss of 10 garrisons and outposts this month.

The SPLM-SPLA would continue to seek the solution of the problems of the Sudan through dialogue, but it will, nevertheless, defend itself in the face of any offensive by Khartoum.

Radio Commentary Says Garang Serving 'Zionists'

EA0102211190 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Commentary from the "Armed Forces" program]

[Excerpts] We would like to say that we in the Armed Forces have sacrificed ourselves for the homeland, and we shall fight to liberate all the occupied territories. We will stop the war now being waged by Garang in the beloved south against our people and the killing of innocent civilians. Some of our brave fighters die in every battle because we in the Armed Forces have raised the slogan of victory or death.

But why should the outlaws die? For whom are they destroying the homeland? Is it for the outlaw John Garang? If the outlaws loyal to John Garang are unaware of the fact, they should know that John Garang has become a mercenary. He has sold the homeland for a fistful of dollars. His children are living in luxury in hotels in Addis Ababa, spending the summer in California and other Western cities.

This is not the only dangerous thing in outlaw Garang's movement. In fact Garang is executing the directives of the Zionists and their masters, the Israelis and the enemies of the homeland and the enemies of the Jewish religion [sentence as heard]. We will not let Garang's lying statements to the world pass by. [passage omitted]

Our military operations and [word indistinct] against the enemy shall never stop until all the occupied territory is recaptured. The combat operations will not stop until Garang is present (?in person) and defeated, because the outlaw Garang thinks he has a big head. [passage omitted]

We repeat that we will not stop our military operations until the Didinga, Latukas, and other tribes have their rights restored, together with those of other tribes that have asked for their rights, and have had their houses burned down.

As the chairman and commander in chief, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, says, Garang cannot threaten the Armed Forces. As the commander says, we say: Garang cannot threaten us in the Armed Forces. Even if the war continues we are ready for the battle, because we can quickly compensate for our losses, but the outlaw Garang, if one of his outlaws dies, where

can his compensation come from? We in the Armed Forces are ready for the battle. We shall never be defeated. May God be against the enemy.

Western Sahara

Envoy to Algeria Comments on Peace Prospects

LD2701021390 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Bachir Mustapha Sayed, the Polisario official in charge of external relations, met with Perez de Cuellar this week at the United Nations and he said that 1990 is a crucial year for positive development, in the peace process and decolonization of the Western Sahara. The idea of a new cease-fire was discussed in this context. Tonight Rachida Touazi asked Ibrahim Hakim, Sahrawi Republic ambassador to Algiers, for more details:

[Begin Hakim recording] A new cease-fire will depend on the readiness of the other party to take steps to settle this problem. As you know, we have already observed truces many times but have not gotten any response from the other party. On the contrary, the other party has tried to interpret our conciliatory, positive, and responsible attitude as a weakness, which is in fact wrong.

In this context I recall the well-known statements of the Moroccan king on the eve of his departure for Spain, his return to (?the language) of 1975, the hardening of his attitude, his stubbornness. Following the Marrakech meeting we thought it was possible to reach a solution with King Hassan II. Alas, we have only seen deception on his part. Concerning the future, everything will depend on the readiness of the Moroccan king to move toward the path of peace. [end recording]

Algiers Reports Polisario, UN Officials Meet

LD2701234290 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] With the commitment of the Sahraoui side, I should like to affirm that no infiltration by the Sahraoui People's Liberation Forces (SPLF), no matter how small, will take place into the territories once international administration and peace observation teams are in place. What has taken place in other quarters and during other experiments—which Morocco is trying to exploit—will not happen with us.

This was stated by Bechir Moustapha Sayed, the official in charge of external relations in the Polisario front.

Following a second meeting with Perez de Cuellar, who has appointed Johannes Manz as his special envoy to the Western Sahara, the Sahraoui official reviewed, in a special interview with APS, the course and progress of the joint mediation effort of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the United Nations, and the obstacles preventing the holding of a free and legal referendum allowing the Sahraoui people to determine their own destiny.

The Sahraoui delegation held two meetings with the Swiss diplomat Johannes Manz. The first was a protocol meeting during which the UN secretary-general introduced his special envoy to the Western Sahara and requested the cooperation of the Sahraoui side and its commitment to the success of his noble and very difficult task. Bechir Moustapha Sayed pointed out that this introduction was followed by a working session which allowed Manz to review the basis of the Polisario front's position and its view of the current mediation efforts. He also reviewed the phases that have already been surpassed and what remains to be achieved before the conclusion of this course. The Sahraoui official said that today we are entering this phase in order to settle and [word indistinct] the questions relating to the conditions of the freedom of the referendum and its legal nature, that is, those questions which concern the Moroccan presence in the Western Sahara. The ball is not in our court, says Bechir Moustapha Sayed, and the Sahraouis, for their part, are insistent on making this (?year) a decisive phase in a final and peaceful settlement of the conflict and an effective step toward the conclusion of the preparations of the UN peace plan.

Perez de Cuellar Discusses Peace Settlement

LD3001133590 Algiers APS in English 1029 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] New York, 30/1/90 (APS)—Moroccan Foreign Minister, Ahmed Cherkaoui, met Monday with the UN secretary general, Javier Perez de Cuellar in the frame of the latter's efforts to implement his peace plan which has been accepted in principle by the two sides in conflict.

Following this meeting, the UN secretary general received ambassadors of Algeria and Mauritania to the UN, Hocine Djoudi and Mohamedou Ould Mahmoud as observers in the process of UN-OAU joint offices for a definte settlement of the Western Sahara conflict. In addition to the official introduction of the new special representative for western sahara, the talks of Perez de Cuellar may have centered on the forthcoming visit of Johannes Manz due in February. This visit will be followed by that of the UN secretary general. The UN secretary general received on Friday the Sahrawi special envoy, Mustapha Sayed concerning the same subject.

Kuwait

Al-'Usaymi News Conference Addresses Immigration

LD2701171590 Kuwait KUNA in English 1105 GMT 27 Jan 90

[By Salih Nazzland Yahya Matar]

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 27 (KUNA)—Kuwait's State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad Al-'Usaymi said on Saturday migration of Soviet Jews to Israel would not be viewed with satisfaction and cannot contribute to the peace and stability of the region.

He stressed that the settlement of Jewish immigrants in occupied Arab territories was a breach of U.N. resolutions.

Al-'Usaymi, addressing a press conference attended by Arab and foreign reporters, held the United Nations and the Security Council responsible for permitting the Jews from the Soviet Union and other Eastern Europe countries to settle in the occupied Arab territories.

The Kuwaiti official, responding to a question on the unrest in the Soviet Union, said the developments in Azerbaijan and other Soviet republics is a Soviet internal affair that concerns Moscow alone.

Referring to rapid political developments in various parts of the world, he regretted that Arab issues were still being debated at a level that leaves much to be desired.

Answering a query, Al-'Usaymi said deputy premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad had sent a letter to Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz in part of Kuwait's efforts to mediate a settlement of a dispute between Turkey and both Syria and Iraq.

The dispute arose from Turkey's decision to substantially cut the Euphrates River water flow for a month starting last January 13, a move which Syria and Iraq complained would cause them serious economic hardships.

Al-'Usaymi denied press reports that the Gulf cooperation summit, held in Oman last month, saw disputes over internal GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] matters, and said it was only normal to have conflicting viewpoints.

He renewed Kuwait's backing to the Arab League Tripartite Committee on Lebanon and dismissed the theory that the committee had reached a dead end.

The Kuwaiti state minister urged the Arab countries to modify their traditional way of thinking and adopt a comprehensive view towards international developments. Al-'Usaymi said a study on the issue would be presented before a forthcoming meeting of the Arab foreign ministers to consider bringing it up at a future Arab summit.

He underscored that what was taking place in Eastern Europe and other world countries should be linked with the development in Western Europe particularly after the launching of the European single market by 1992. He said this issue was of concern to the entire Arab world and not Kuwait alone.

Asked on a reported call by Sudan for the convening of an emergency Arab summit to consider the Israeli presence in neighbouring Ethiopia, Al-'Usaymi said Kuwait had not received such an official request, indicating that Kuwait would not (?want) any Israeli infiltration in south Sudan whether through Ethiopia or else.

Reiterating Kuwait's support to the recent Iraqi peace offer with Iran, Al-'Usaymi appealed to Iran to respond to all efforts aimed at establishing peace in the region.

Asked on whether the Arab League would sponsor the Iraqi initiative, Al-'Usaymi made it clear that it was a sheer Iraqi affair and up to the Arab League if asked to do so.

Commenting on recent statements by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak that Kuwait was taking part along with other Arab countries in mediation efforts to normalize relations between Iraq and Syria, Al-'Usamyi underlined that Kuwait's efforts were in the framework of Arab efforts to end differences between any sisterly Arab countries.

He said the Council of the Arab League would discuss moving the headquarters of the organization in its upcoming meeting scheduled for next March in Tunis.

Al-'Usaymi said it was premature to call for an emergency Arab summit on Lebanon as long as the Tripartite Committee had not requested the convening of such a meeting.

He said the committee was entrusted with two issues: Bringing just peace to Lebanon and calling an Arab summit if its efforts in this direction reached a dead end.

Al-'Usaymi regretted continuation of fighting between Afghani people and appealed to the belligerents to sit to the negotiating table to stop the bloodshed now that foreign troops had moved out of the country.

Al-'Usaymi announced that His Highness the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah would visit the United Kingdom in mid March for talks with British officials on Arab issues especially the Palestinian cause and the situation in Lebanon.

Responding to a question on Kuwait's relations with Eastern bloc countries following the recent changes in those countries, he said peoples and not regimes were the corner stone of Kuwait's relations with other countries.

Al-'Usaymi indicated that resumption of diplomatic relations between East European countries and Israel would be given adequate attention at the regular meeting of the Arab League's Council.

On the visit of the current chairman of the United Nations General Assembly (?Joseph Garba), due here later (?today) Al-'Usaymi said talks with the U.N. official would focus on Mideastern issues with special emphasis on the Iraq-Iran war and the Lebanese question.

Regarding the Soviet recent offer to host a meeting between the foreign ministers of Iraq and Iran, Al-'Usaymi said Kuwait was in support of all unilateral and collective efforts to end the state of no peace and no war in the region which he described as a threat to international peace and security.

Minister of State Meets With Indian Visitor

LD3101135190 Kuwait KUNA in English 1104 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Kuwait Jan 31 (KUNA)—Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi met here Wednesday with the Indian Foreign Undersecretary Tchkund Dubie [name as received] who arrived here at dawn today on a short visit in the course of a tour of the region.

The Indian official handed al-'Usaymi a message sent to Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad from the Indian foreign minister.

It was learnt that the message deals with bilateral relations and developments in the region and the international arena.

The meeting was attended by the director of Asia and Africa Department at the Foreign Ministry 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Isa al-Khadir, director of the minister's office Dhari al-'Ajran, and Kihayl al-Kihayl from Asia and Africa Department, and the Indian ambassador to Kuwait Arun Kumar.

Saudi Arabia

Three Saudi Diplomats Killed in Bangkok

LD0102203490 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Riyadh, 1 Feb (SPA)—Three Saudi diplomats working in the embassy of the custodian of the two holy mosques in Bangkok were this afternoon subjected to perfidious aggressions outside their homes upon returning from their work at the embassy. This led to the instant martyrdom of the three diplomats, who are:
1. Mr. Abdallah 'Abd al-Rahman al-Basri.
2. Mr. Fahd Abdallah al-Bahli.
3. Mr. Ahmad Abdallah al-Saif.

While expressing its regret at this painful incident, the victims of which were three of its loyal sons performing their duties for their homeland and their nation, the government of the custodian of the two holy mosques prays to Almighty God to bless them and inspire patience in their kinfolk.

The government of the custodian of the two holy mosques reaffirms its absolute condemnation of such dubious terrorist acts, which have no other aim than satisfying a tendency to kill and to shed blood. It urges the Government of Thailand to assume its full responsibilities as soon as possible to catch the sinful culprits, bring them to justice, and have them pay for what they have done.

The government of the two holy mosques is awaiting information from the Thai Government authorities before taking the necessary measures.

Commentator Views U.S. Middle East Initiative

LD0202094290 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Commentary by Husayn al-Askari]

[Text] Brothers, may God's peace, blessing, and benediction be upon you.

The latest reports from Washington say James Baker, the U.S. secretary of state, intends to invite Dr Ismat Abd al-Majid, the Egyptian foreign minister, and Moshe Arens, the foreign minister of the Israeli enemy, to meet him in Washington in the next 2 days to examine the proposed Palestinian-Israeli dialogue and the problem of how to form a Palestinian delegation.

The U.S.-Middle East outlook at this stage, considered the direct product of the Malta summit meeting between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, reflects a certain desire to achieve results which can crystallize a harmonious stance toward the peace process in the region; results in which Washington is eager to play a leading and a distinguished role. In this framework falls the invitation of the U.S. secretary of state to two parties of the dispute, namely the Israeli enemy and Egypt, to confer with him in Washington. The announcement was made long ago for such a meeting. The meeting itself, however, was stalled by the dodgy Israeli stance toward the peace efforts. If the meeting is somehow destined to be sometime next week it will, undoubtedly, give a somewhat positive indication the peace efforts would bear some fruit, albeit limited, in resolving the crisis and reaching a solution for the dilemma of the Arab-Israeli dispute.

The issue of Palestinian and Israeli participation at the peace talks, particularly formation of the Palestinian delegation to the proposed negotiations with the one Israeli enemy, moreover is going to be the main subject, the principle basis for examining the points on the agenda of Washington's forthcoming tripartite ministerial meeting.

The latter meeting is on how the Palestinian people are to be represented, a matter of interest to its sole and legitimate representative, the PLO; therefore, any discussion of such a matter without the PLO would be considered a weakness in any peace efforts. It would be a weakness most parties concerned directly or indirectly

with the problem, led by Egypt and the whole Arab world, recognize; a matter which furthermore would make examination of such a subject a very subtle and difficult matter, compelling those concerned with resolving it to accept the undisputed fact of the PLO'S representation of the Palestinian people and abide by it.

'Official Source' Denies Report on Meeting

LD0202092290 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1929 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] An official source made the following statement to SPA: We read what the Lebanese AL-DIYAR published 31 January on allegations regarding the minutes of the meeting between His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs, and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

The source added "we regret the mentioned magazine should fabricate such an issue, because what has been mentioned is totally groundless, and we categorically deny it."

Yemen Arab Republic

President Salih Returns From U.S., France

JN0102212090 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, returned home this evening in God's care and protection following a week's visit to the United States, during which he conducted talks with President George Bush, Vice President Dan Quayle, Secretary of State James Baker, and senior U.S. officials in both the executive and legislative branches, as well as the Defense Department. [passage omitted]

The president on the trip back paid a one-day working visit to France, during which he conducted talks with President Francois Mitterrand, Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, and Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement. [passage omitted]

Moscow Radio Cited on Continued 'Free Emigration'

TA0102202290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] The Soviet Union announced it will continue permitting the free emigration of its citizens, including Jews.

In its Hebrew-language broadcast this evening, Moscow Radio announced this was an unambiguous position. Moscow Radio attacked Arab world elements which, it claimed, stir up an artificial storm and unnecessary panic. The broadcast said even if 40,000 Soviet Jews immigrate to Israel this year, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] as a result will not add brigades, and the territories will not be dotted with new settlements.

The Moscow Radio commentator said the Arabs should overcome the confrontation complex and concentrate instead on ways to find a compromise. But the commentator added the USSR firmly objects to the settlements or settling Soviet Jews there. The above was reported by our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus.

Pamyat Denies Pogroms Planned Against Jews

TA0102182690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] One of the leaders of Pamyat [Russian nationalist group] in the Soviet Union has denied reports his organization is planning anti-Jewish pogroms.

(Igor Sichov) told the Voice of Israel reports his organization was planning such pogroms in 3 months are propagated by disinformation distributed by the Soviet bureaucracy and pro-Zionist forces. A female attorney from Leningrad told our correspondents the Jews fear leaving their homes and escorting their children to school, and Jewish teachers and students have been expelled from some institutions.

Ben-Aharon on Al-Husayni as Delegate to Talks

TA0102191690 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Shlomo Ganor, Yoni Ben-Menahem, and Eli Nisan on the weekly "Meeting" program—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Ganor] We say we want to hold a dialogue with representatives of the inhabitants of the territories. There is a leading representative, from the Palestinians' point of view, who at least for them is No 1, Faysal al-Husayni, an East Jerusalem resident. Is it conceivable Israel would conduct negotiations with a Palestinian delegation and some one like him would not be a member of this delegation?

[Ben-Aharon] I would like to tell you I do not know to what extent Faysal al-Husayni is a credible representative. I have the impression Al-Husayni appointed himself to the post. But that does not make any difference. We all know the real Arabs, because we have been living with them for more than 20 years. There are those among them who have the intellectual level, the ability to be a representative, and to present the issues in the best possible way. These are residents of Ramallah, Nabulus, Gaza, and Hebron. The problem is not lack of people, it is a lack of readiness to meet with us to implement the initiative. There is no other alternative. The scenario should be based on the initiative and not on something someone cooked up in Tunis, Baghdad, or Damascus. [passage omitted]

[Ben-Menahem] Mr Ben-Aharon, another problem on the agenda besides composition of the Palestinian delegation is who will announce it. Is it acceptable to Israel for Egypt to announce the delegation?

[Ben-Aharon] There is no decision on this in the Cabinet or the Inner Cabinet, which is the body dealing with this issue. It is a technical, substantive subject. The announcement is unimportant; the contents are important. What, in my opinion, will determine the Israeli position is whether it will be a delegation whose composition conforms with our initiative. In other words, whether they are legitimate representatives of the population in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

[Nisan] Mr Ben-Aharon, you were with the prime minister when he conducted meetings with public figures from the territories—Judaea, Samaria, the Gaza Strip, and even East Jerusalem. Why were these meetings stopped?

[Ben-Aharon] I think the prime minister was and continues to be interested. There are objective difficulties to consider that derive from threats by outside terrorist organizations against anyone thinking of meeting with official Israeli figures, but without an order issued by those organizations. I believe this threat has had an influence. There is no problem in meeting with all sorts of residents. Both you and we are talking to them...

[Ganor, interrupting] Yes, but not at that level.

[Ben-Aharon] Precisely, a meeting with the prime minister in which the person who comes knows that he is coming not only as an individual, but also that the prime minister is interested in hearing his views as somebody who represents in some way a segment of the population—that they are hesitating to do.

[Ganor] Do you plan to renew those meetings?

[Ben-Aharon] As far as I know, yes.

[Ganor] Soon?

[Ben-Aharon] I cannot tell you; that is the prime minister's business.

[Ganor] Can you hint at what level those meetings will take place, what type of people will come?

[Ben-Aharon] A representative level, which like I said before, means people who can speak for the population and have the self-confidence to do it. By the way, with your permission I highly recommend such people come to the meetings. They are talking about a dialogue. We always referred to direct negotiations. We cannot reach a settlement without such a dialogue.

[Ben-Menahem] Can you assure them they will not be threatened, there will be no leaks? Part of the criticism by those not prepared to come to talks is that leaks originate in the Prime Minister's Office which endanger their lives.

[Ben-Aharon] Up to now, the names of those the prime minister met have not been published. If somebody wants a secret meeting, it would not be a problem to promise that. We are not meant to safeguard all the residents. I regret that is not easy. You know some 170 Arabs have been murdered by other Arabs in a cruel way. [passage omitted]

[Ben-Menahem] We have spoken a lot about the composition of the Palestinian delegation. The status of Jordan has been ignored in this discussion. Does that mean Jordan has stopped playing a role in the peace process in this region?

[Ben-Aharon] Jordan's role has been ignored because it chose to cut itself off from the territories. That was a wise act since it did not have a sovereign hold on the territories—under international law it occupied the territories in 1948-50—but it also decided to sever itself from the peace process. I would like to say one cannot set up a division between Jordan and the Arabs living in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip because it involves one people. There even are families divided between the East and West Banks of the Jordan River. A peace process which genuinely aspires to solve the problem therefore must include the Kingdom of Jordan.

[Ganor] Do I see a change in Jerusalem's attitude toward Jordan, even compared to what it was before the peace initiative? An accord called the London agreement was reached between the vice prime minister and Jordan.

[Ben-Aharon] The London agreement now belongs to history, but I believe what once was called the Jordanian option—a territorial compromise between Jordan and Israel on the division of the territories—has gone. There is, however, a demographic reality which has political repercussions that cannot be changed: that there is the State of Israel, the Jewish state. And there is an Arab-Palestinian-Jordanian state; I do not want to determine for them how to define it, but it is one nation. The Jordanian leaders say it, and those who appointed themselves Palestinian leaders in the PLO say it—it is one people. There has to be a settlement between these two people, which must incorporate both sides of the Jordan River.

[Ben-Menahem] How can Jordan be incorporated into the Israeli peace initiative?

[Ben-Aharon] We had—and have from time to time—indirect contacts with the Government of Jordan, in which Jordan says it wants to rejoin the process, but will decide by itself on the timing. I do not know what the reasoning is. I believe—and this, by the way, is part of our initiative—that it best be as soon as possible. I would like to add something else; that the tendency of the Jordanian Government right now to give the PLO the exclusive right to represent and be the determining factor for this population is unhealthy, because the PLO will not be the stabilizing element which can advance any sort of process. It would be preferable for Jordan to join us and help us, itself, and the residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

[Ganor] That is a new wind blowing from Jerusalem with you calling on Jordan to join the process.

[Ben-Aharon] Why? I said it appears in our initiative. We favor a dialogue, and Jordan is closest to us, since as I said, it is made up of the same population. We are, therefore, of course, interested in having Jordan join.

Shamir Sends Own Invitations; Likud Might Split

TA0202092790 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Feb 90 pp 1, 18

[By Sarah Honig]

[Text] Each member of the 3,200-strong Likud Central Committee has been sent two invitations to the same February 7 committee meeting. The invitations bear different signatures and list different agendas. It is possible that there will be two meetings at two venues.

Developments escalated so quickly yesterday and were so heated that party pundits could no longer see any way of papering over the differences between the supporters of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and the backers of the three "constraints ministers"—Ariel Sharon, David Levi and Yitzhaq Moda'i.

The feeling last night in the Likud was that the committee session might be broken up at the outset, or that there would be a split, with the minority who support the three ministers possibly meeting separately.

"It is not preposterous to suggest some sort of split in the Likud," said a source in the Shamir camp.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 2 February in a page A1 report by Ilan Shehori quotes "close associates of Shamir" as stating that "Sharon is endangering the future of the Likud and is forcing Shamir to adopt grave measures against him. The Prime Minister's Bureau was of the opinion last night that the time to fire Sharon from the Cabinet is rapidly approaching."]

Yesterday evening the prime minister took the initiative and sent out invitations to the meeting signed by him in his capacity as party chairman.

His supporters kept repeating yesterday that he was the only Likud official to be formally elected to his post in the party that came into being after the Herut-Liberal merger.

Sharon, they stressed, had been central committee chairman in Herut, but was never elected to head the united Likud central committee. He was tolerated as unofficial, Likud committee chairman so long as he respected the limits of party democracy. But his "attempts to hijack the meeting," as Minister Ehud Olmert put it, "have forced Shanir to assert his authority as Likud chairman."

The invitation Shamir sent puts his opening address and demand for a vote of confidence at the top of the agenda, allowing only for a straight "yes" or "no" vote.

Meeting with his supporters in Jerusalem yesterday, the prime minister referred to his opponents as "those who would drive the nation insane." He added: "It is my inalienable right to ask if the party is with me or not. I am the one who must face the dangerous hurdles before us daily, and who is the target for hate, and I wish to know if I possess support to carry on or not. This is legitimate."

He explained that he would refuse to have the vote of confidence followed by votes on other proposals that would examine details of the evolving peace process, "as such resolutions would in effect dictate to me what I may or may not do tomorrow and the day after. This would be in total contradiction to any vote of confidence. I am determined to prevent the farce of a pot-pourri of contradictory resolutions."

Shamir also expressed surprise at protests from around the world against the settlement in Judaea and Samaria of a few dozen immigrants. "Are they the danger to peace? We naively always supposed that the real danger and obstacle to peace was the PLO," he said.

Shamir reportedly decided to send his own invitation to the meeting after the one sent yesterday by Sharon failed to mention on the agenda an address by the prime minister.

It is no longer certain that the sides can even agree on where the meeting will take place. Shamir listed the Tel Aviv Exhibition Grounds, as originally agreed. But Sharon was yesterday talking of the Yad Eliyahu stadium as a larger and therefore more suitable venue. The Shamir side refused to hear of any change, and again accused Sharon of trying to "drive everyone mad."

The constraints ministers met again yesterday after having rejected efforts by MKs [Knesset members] close to them to effect some sort of compromise. Moda'i later ruled out any deal with Shamir about the agenda. The three ministers warned that there would be an "explosion" should Shamir seek to run the meeting himself.

Poll: Majority of Likud Supporters Back Shamir

TA0202111690 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 2 Feb 90 p 1

[Public opinion poll conducted by the Dahaf Institute, under the direction of Dr Mina Tzemah]

[Text] Seventy percent of the public would give their vote of confidence to Yitzhaq Shamir if they were asked to participate in next week's vote at the Likud Central Committee convention.

Shamir enjoys greater support among the Likud's supporters, with 79 percent giving him their vote of confidence.

These are the findings of a telephone poll conducted Tuesday and Wednesday this week on a representative sample of 615 respondents.

Question: Were you a member of the Likud Central Committee, would you or would you not give your vote of confidence to Yitzhaq Shamir?

Answer: Would—70 percent; would not—23 percent; did not reply—7 percent.

Question: As a Likud supporter—and considering the dispute between Shamir and the constraints ministers—would you give Shamir your vote of confidence?

Answer: Would—79 percent; would not—19 percent; did not reply—2 percent.

Shamir Dismisses EC Attack on Immigration Policy

TA0102193690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] The EC has attacked Israel for allegedly settling Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union in the territories.

In a statement praising the Soviet Union for allowing Jews to emigrate to Israel, the 12 EC nations warned settling immigrants in the territories might endanger prospects for settling the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

In Jerusalem, Prime Minister Shamir dismissed the European criticism. The premier, speaking to Likud Central Committee members in his office this evening, noted only a small percentage of Soviet immigrants are settling in the territories. Shamir said in Israel's eyes, it is not the immigrants who pose an obstacle to peace, but rather the PLO.

Shamir 'Convinced' of Better Ties With Hungary

TA0102140990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today told Imre Pozsgay, Hungary's minister of state [title as heard], he is worried about recent anti-Semitic incidents in Hungary.

The visiting minister replied his government is aware there still are several negative aspects that need attention, despite the positive changes in Hungary. Prime Minister Shamir in their meeting said he is convinced ties with Hungary will deepen, and bilateral cultural and tourism cooperation will expand.

Foreign Ministry Issues Communique on GDR Talks

TA0102140490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Talks between Israel and the GDR on establishing diplomatic relations will resume, but a date has not been set.

Israel made it plain in preliminary talks ending yesterday in Copenhagen it wants to maintain normal relations with all countries. Relations with East Germany, however, present Israel with difficulties anyone familiar with 20th century history easily will understand. Israel, stated the Foreign Ministry communique, attributes supreme importance to the GDR acknowledging its moral, historic responsibility for crimes committed by Germans against Jews under Nazi rule.

'Sources': 'Arafat Resignation Threat 'Serious'

TA0102181990 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 1 Feb 90 p 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat said he may resign because of pressure from Palestinians in the territories to let them fire on IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers.

'Arafat, in an interview with a Pakistani daily, said he ordered this be avoided. But he said he is subjected to heavy pressure because of the brutal suppression of the intifadah. "Yet if we reach the end of the tether, I summarily will convene the Palestine National Council to draw the necessary conclusions, to the point of my resignation," 'Arafat said.

Palestinian sources in the territories have said 'Arafat's threats of resignation are serious, because he comes under fire within the PLO for the concessions he makes. 'Arafat explained in his talks with Mubarak in Cairo that he can make no further concessions because the opposition in Fatah against him is getting stronger. Saudi Arabia has joined those who demand 'Arafat adopt a more moderate position, but he cannot do that.

According to these sources, 'Arafat did not take seriously Peres' suggestion that in return for proposals unacceptable to the Government of Israel, he is requested to make concessions on behalf of the PLO. They added the outcry provoked by immigration to Israel is making it extremely difficult for 'Arafat to approach the PLO now to seek its approval of further concessions.

Magnetic Exit Card Plan in West Bank Postponed

TA0102120990 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 1 Feb 90 p 7

[By Shmu'el Tal]

[Text] Publicity given to the defense establishment plan to issue magnetic exit cards to West Bank residents was one reason enforcement of the program was postponed, a senior defense source stated, voicing exasperation over the publicity.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was to decide on enforcement of the plan at the beginning of March, and Israeli Army sources now believe the plan soon may not be fully implemented.

The plan already has been enforced in the Gaza Strip, but defense sources believe the dimensions and geographical layout there made distribution of the magnetic cards relatively easy. They argue the West Bank is larger, more difficult to control, and can be accessed from many points. The sources added the West Bank would attract more attention because of its proximity to Jerusalem. Many journalists are posted in Jerusalem, and any resistance to distribution of the magnetic cards would evoke negative reverberations.

It should be pointed out enforcement of the plan in the Gaza Strip lasted long and was fraught with difficulties.

Stoning Incidents Prompt 5 Gaza School Closings

TA0102203390 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Two molotov cocktails were hurled early this evening at the home of a Jewish photographer in the Old City of Jerusalem. There were no injuries or damage. In Nabulus, two stone throwers were slightly injured in a clash with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers. [passage omitted]

Violence dropped today in the Gaza Strip, perhaps because of heavy rains this morning. But our correspondent Beni Liss reports when students began leave at the end of school, they threw rocks at IDF patrols. The Civil Administration today closed another five schools where the students staged riots: two in Khan Yunus and three in Gaza. Despite stormy weather in the Gaza Strip, the soldiers continued on routine patrols. Our correspondent reports as of filing time, there have been no reports on injuries in the Gaza Strip.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 1 February adds "several private vehicles were stoned this evening on the Wadi 'Ara road. No one was hurt. 'Iron region policemen captured three youths from Baqa al-Gharbiyya who admitted they had thrown the rocks." They are 15-, 16-, and 18-year-old youths who "reported during their interrogation the intifadah influenced them to throw the rocks. They also pleaded guilty to several previous stoning incidents." The report also notes "a 14-year-old resident of Kafr Qasim was slightly injured by bullets fired by IDF soldiers. The soldiers had helped police chase a vehicle driven by masked individuals." The youth had nothing to do with the chase and is hospitalized at Hasharon Hospital. "There were four passengers in the car," continues the report, "and it was abandoned near Kafr Qasim. Three of the passengers fled to the village and one toward Rosh Ha'ayin. The police contend the soldiers who joined the chase only fired warning shots in the air."]

Suspected Collaborator Beaten, Dies of Hemorrhage

TA0102124190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Wahid 'Abdallah Rashid, 29, of Jammalah died overnight in the hospital in Ramallah.

He checked into the hospital last night after he was beaten by fellow villagers and later hemorrhaged to death. The Israeli Army and the police are investigating. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports he apparently was murdered because he was suspected of collaborating with Israel.

Husayn Says Changes Warrant Strong Arab Nation

JN0102182790 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] His majesty the king has said substantial challenges are now facing the Arab nation and threatening the Arab order requiring consideration of what is taking place in order to counter this situation and safeguard pan-Arab security.

His majesty made the remarks at an audience at al-Nadwah Palace today with the president and members of the Press Association in Jordan. His majesty noted that the kingdom would remain committed to the unity of Arab ranks and the Palestine question. He told the journalists that a strong and united Arab nation should be highlighted as influential at a time of consecutive events and dramatic changes in the world which our enemy tries to exploit in order to extend its control of Arab territory.

His majesty commended the role of Jordanian media toward various issues and voiced his support for journalists and the Press Association so as to perform its role properly.

Husayn: Israel Trying To Absorb More Immigrants

JN0202083890 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] His majesty the king today warned of the danger inherent in the influx of Soviet Jewish emigrants to occupied Palestine and urged the Arab nation to unite in the face of the new challenge. Addressing a meeting with the Jordan Press Association board at al-Nadwah Palace, his majesty warned that Israel was trying to evict the Palestinians from their homeland to absorb more Jewish immigrants. His majesty reiterated Jordan's total commitment to supporting the Palestinian people and the PLO's endeavors to regain the Palestinian people's rights in their homeland.

Referring to the Arab Cooperation Council, his majesty said the people of Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, and North Yemen will this year witness new moves aimed to fulfill the aspirations of the four countries. King Husayn expressed his pride in the Jordanian press and he pledged to back its moves to reorganize the journalists' role in serving the country. His majesty supported the association's demand to have its own permanent premises to help promote its activities.

Syria, Jordan Sign Transportation Minutes

JN0102184090 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] The minutes of meetings conducted by the Syrian-Jordanian Company for Maritime Transport and the Jordanian-Syrian Company for Land Transport were signed today at the Ministry of Transportation.

The minutes record approval by the Syrian-Jordanian Company for Maritime Transport of the projected budget for 1990, as well as the company's investment plan for this year. The minutes review the company's activities last year and note the company made profits totaling some 30 million Syrian pounds in 1989.

House Deputies Debate 1990 Budget Draft

JN2801103290 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28 Jan 90 p 5

["Excerpts" of speeches by Jordanian House of Representatives deputies on recommendations for the 1990 draft budget, on 27 January in Amman]

[Text] Faris al-Nabulsi [subhead]

Deputy Faris al-Nabulsi (Amman) criticised the draft budget by saying that parts of it were either unrealistic or misguided. He cited 10 areas in which the government could be taken to task in presenting its draft budget to Parliament.

On the question of revenues, al-Nabulsi urged the minister of finance to explain the reasons behind the government's "optimistic" projection of increased internal revenues from JD 117 million in 1989 to JD 212 million in 1990, and of increased income tax collection from JD 54 million in 1989 to JD 100 million in 1990, "especially in the light of depressed markets in Jordan, high unemployment and recession."

The Amman deputy called on the government to review its policy of exempting certain establishments, like the Housing Bank, from paying "taxes and fees" that they otherwise should pay.

On projected Arab financial aid to Jordan, which is estimated at JD 162.6 million in the draft budget, al-Nabulsi wanted to know whether the figure would be received in full, and if not, whether the government had plans to meet any shortfalls that might result from Arab and friendly countries not meeting their commitements to Jordan.

The deputy questioned the "assumption of increased foreign loans by 98

over 1989" and asked why Jordan could not avoid such loans since "we have lost confidence in their value in development."

Al-Nabulsi also questioned budgetary policies on foreign and local debts and asked whether Jordan might not be able to avoid paying its foreign debts as part of a concerted effort by the Third World to solve the problem with developed countries.

On the issue of inflation, Deputy al-Nabulsi urged the finance minister to elaborate on the devaluation of the dinar and its effect noting that inflation was negative before the decline in the value of the Jordanian currency and then shot up to 25 per cent. He questioned whether

the 13 per cent inflation envisaged in 1990 is in comparison to 1989 inflation or 1988 inflation figures.

Al-Nabulsi called on the government to be selective in subsidising basic commodities so that poorer families can benefit from it.

He concluded by saying: "My understanding of the draft budget is that it is a plan to revitalise the economy and raise the standard of living. But since it depends on obscuring facts and does not differ much from earlier draft budgets which have led us to the present situation, I hereby announce my rejection of the draft budget. [quotation marks as published]

'Abd al-Hafiz 'Alawi

Deputy 'Abd al-Hafiz 'Alawi expressed support for the financial committee report and called for organising the administrative system to curtail overspending. He underlined the need to increase spendings on the National Aid Fund, the Ministry of Health, The Telecommunication Corporation, and the Ministry of Higher Education by increasing scholarship allocations.

Stressing the need to conduct a careful study of indebtedness, 'Alawi proposed a number of measures to control expenditure. These include withdrawing government cars used by individuals, merging the Higher Council for Science and Technology with the Royal Scientific Society, cancelling the job of advisor at a number of ministries and departments, cancelling contract jobs which are usually held by people with high income, reducing the number of directors in some departments, restructuring the administrative system, controlling government vehicles all the time, evacuating all buildings with high rents occupied by Royal Jordanian as well as the National Medical Institution and other institutions, reducing the number of staff at Jordanian of productive projects, and rationalising the consumption of fuel and elecrticity.

Deputy 'Alawi also discussed the needs of Madaba and Thiban district. He called for increasing the number of qualified imams, rehabilitating teachers and promoting education, improving medical services, increasing suport for municipalities, exerting efforts to avoid water shortages in summer, promoting tourism, renovating buildings about to collapse, promoting sporting and cultural activities, and preserving the rights of labourers working at factories in the district. He, furthermore, called for solving humanitarian problems of Gazans living in Madaba camp and improving a number of services.

Muhammad Tarawinah, 'Abdallah Zurayqat

Deputies Muhammad Faris Tarawinah and 'Abdallah Zurayqat (al-Karak) questioned various figures which appeared in the budget both in revenues or expenditures. They made their joint remarks on taxes, higher government revenue and fees by asking how it could be achieved without imposing extra burden on the citizens.

The two deputies said that servicing Jordan's debts consumes 30 per cent of export earnings and, as such, Jordan should cooperate with other debtor countries and reconsider the agreements with the creditors to benefit the Kingdom in the first place.

Tarawinah and Zurayqat noted that in the absence of budgets for various independent government or semi-government institutions, the Parliament cannot formulate a total clear understanding of the Kingdom's finance especially that those institutions cover nearly JD 700 million in expenditure.

They stressed the unemployment issues citing nearly 60,000 people are without work. As well, they noted that subsidies were not fairly distributed giving as an obvious example more than 300,000 non-Jordanians who benefit from it. The deputies recommended that subsidies be shifted to productive areas which can turn [as published] basic food items currently being subsidised.

The deputies finally waged a fierce condemnation over the lack of sufficient agriculture allowances in the budget.

Ahmad al-'Abbadi

Dr. Ahmad 'Uwayd al-'Abbadi (Amman) went beyond the 1990 budget to launch attacks on information and medical area. However, in his economic coverage he requested a more fair pay to employees whose salaries shrunk considerably in the past months due to high and unbearable inflation.

He called for stricter control on market operations to limit price increases on all items noting that many luxury items are essential nowadays.

Al-'Abbadi criticized the distribution of subsidies saying that thousands are beneficiaries when they should not be, especially foreign workers.

The Amman deputy did not spare corruption in his remarks by calling for harsh measures against all those who "stole funds or manoeuvred to manipulate public benefits."

'Awn al-Bashir

Dr 'Awni al-Bashir—Balqa'—in his speech questioned the government policy of subsidies. He said that subsidies benefited higher income groups at the expense of low-income citizens. He said that the percentage of families with a total income below JD 100 a month was 21 per cent in cities and 31 per cent in the countryside, and that 100,000 families have an average income between JD 100-150. He said that subsidies should be directed only to these groups.

Al-Bashir blamed Jordan's problems on lack of proper planning. He said proper planning depended on accurate and precise information and statistics, but planners lack these tools. He cited higher education plans that aimed at catering for the needs of neighbouring markets for

Jordanian labour and said that because of inaccurate information Jordan ended up with thousands of community colleges graduates unable to find jobs.

Al-Bashir urged the government to put planning at the head of its agenda and asked:

1) that a political decision give planning priority at government institutions.

2) that budget allocations of JD 8.5 million for research and development be rechannelled in a "sensible manner."

3) that every government institution should fully cooperate with the Department of Statistics.

Al-Bashir urged the government to ensure the independence of government-owned funds by the appointment of professionals rather than politicians to run such establishment.

He said that although he understood that while pension revenues in the budget amounted to JD 83 million, because the fund was still in its early years, he could not accept that Jordan investment Corporation's profits from the investment of JD 252 million would only be JD 5 million—i.e. two per cent.

Al-Bashir called on the government to support the General Federation of Jordanian Women to enable it to carry out its plans.

He called for cuts in the public expenditures of government institutions including Royal Jordanian, the Railway Corporation, the Armed Forces and the National Medical Institution.

Al-Bashir then turned the debt of municipalities in the Balqa' Governorate which he said should be rescheduled. He asked that 14 villages in the region be provided with electricity. He said that most people complain of high water bills and that many villages have no water networks. He also called for the building of health clinics in various parts of the governorate.

He said that while the Balqa' Governorate is inhabited by seven per cent of the population, its allocation of university seats is only three-four per cent. He called for the building of new schools and the upgrading of existing ones.

Al-Bashir called also for the building of country roads, post offices and consumer shops.

He also asked that the agriculture sector in the governorate be afforded priority and that water problems in the Jordan Valley region be addressed.

Al-Bashir concluded by asking the government to reassess the situation at Abu-Nassayr Housing District in order to help owners who have to pay instalment to be able to bear the brunt of the harsh times.

Husayn Mujalli

Deputy Husayn Mujalli (Jerash) requested the postponement of examining the budget until the Lower House looks into all temporary laws which the government based its budget upon, as well as all agreements which the previous government had concluded with the IMF and the rescheduling of loans.

The deputy recommended that after a deep analysis of his requests the government should submit a new budget to be debated under new criteria noting that article 113 of the Constitution stipulates that if the general budget was not approved by the beginning of the new year, government spending should continue by special allocation—12 to 1 ration of each month of the previous budget.

Mujalli began his speech by emphasising that the budget is a "very strong weapon" which the government possesses and which cannot escape the screening of the Parliament as it translates the programmes and steps that the executive authorities plan to execute.

He stressed two facts which nobody should ignore. The first, he said, is Jordan's known heavy dependence on foreign aid and loans: and the second is the basic "threat to survival" which becomes more serious when unemployment, inflation and indebtedness complete the circle.

Mujalli called on the government to admit first of all that Jordanians are under heavy economic strains and that a national forum should discuss the crises to draw a strategy for Jordan during the 90's because no single groups or government can shoulder the burden alone.

Noting the size and geographical location of Jordan, Mujalli recommended that Jordan strictly follow a pan-Arab path in the true meaning. He, moreover, belittled the private sector role calling instead for an efficient public sector drive which can lead Jordan's development.

Regarding inflation he saw the need to raise the tax on "high bracket income" citizens and on luxury items, imposing capital gains tax, and the continuation of the subsidies to the needy only.

Mujalli attacked "parasitic activities" and flatly rejected the privatisation banner in favour of developing and supporting the public sector.

The Jerash deputy said that Jordan's agreements with the IMF, World Bank and other creditors should be thoroughly reviewed because these institutions confront Jordan for their own interest not the interest of the Jordanian people.

Muhammad 'Alawnah

Deputy Muhammad 'Alawnah called for "a new start based on logic, conducting criticism in its proper place and time, looking for the source of the problem and

discussing it with its concerned side, and abiding by frankness and daring." 'Alawnah said that his views coincided with the financial committee report on the budget. He also criticized the failure to complete projects related to asphalting roads in Irbid and neighbouring villages and called for solving problems related to shortages of medical centres and social development centres in Kafr Asad and Taybnah districts.

'Alawnah also called for proper maintaining of water pipes in Irbid Governorate to avoid water leakages and for promoting agricultural projects.

Faysal bin Jazi

Faysal bin-Jazi—southern bedouins—urged the government to continue its support for the armed forces and security departments. He asked that a pension for armed forces personnel be raised. In the rest of his speech Jazi put forward several demands for his constituency. He asked that the al-Aqabah port and all factories in the south give priority to employing southerners instead of foreign workers.

He urged the government to open new roads, post offices and health clinics. He urged the government to solve the problems of land ownership in the south and to help farmers in the region reclaim land through government aid and the pumping of underground water. He said that some villages lack electricity and asked that the government build a high-volage network for the region.

He also asked that the government should extend various services to the region and pledged to provide the land necessary for building government offices in the area.

In a clear reference to Deputy Ahmad Mun'im Abu-Zant's controversial speech in the Lower House of Parliament Jan. 1 during the government confidence session, Jazi said "Jordan will not allow anyone to compromise Jordan's security and stability; nor will Jordan allow any idiot to teach us about the country's history or the deeds of its men who died for the defence of Palestine."

Ahmad Kafawin

Deputy Ahmad Kafawin said that country's past should serve as a lesson for the future.

Calling on people with power to set good example to other sectors the society, Kafawin branded the draft budget of being "traditional" and "falling short of finding clear solutions to tackle the problem of poverty and to consolidate socio-economic structure."

He also called for merging institutions that constitute a "burden on national economy—such as the National Medical Institution, the Ministry of Youth, and Chief Justice Department—with other institutions." He furthermore criticised the increase in current expenditure in 1990 by 13 per cent over the year before. He stressed that, overtime work, which costs JD 3 million is being distributed as favours with only personal interests behind it. He called on the government to erect government building rather than rent them because that this costs JD 4.728 dinars. [as published]

"The budget failed to discuss activities of several institutions which has great effect on the national economy such as universities, the Central Bank of Jordan, and Royal Jordanian. The 1990 fiscal budget failed to provide directives to control the activities of government institutions and companies such as the Ministry of Agriculture, the Natural Resources Authority, the Jordan Electricity Authority, the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, Jordan Fertiliser Company, Jordan Potash Company, and Jordan Timber Company. What did they spend? How did they spend? and have they attained their objectives?" he asked. Kafawin also criticised the budget for failing to include any expenditure for al-Karak Governorate apart from renovation of the al-Karak castle. He called for increasing allocation for Mu'tah University, developing medical centres, promoting agriculture, and improving other services.

Yusuf Azim

Ma'an Deputy Yusuf Azim put the problems of unemployment, hiking prices and the decline in people's living standards as the main problems facing the Kingdom's economy.

He asserted that the government was exacerbating the unemployment problem by importing foreign manpower and creating imbalances in the labour market.

..."Our greatest tragedy is that while we suffer the burden of unemployment, we are feeding this problem by importing labour that we can make do without," 'Azim told the House.

He said that rising unemployment combined with the devaluation of the dinar and the resulting price increases "made life intolerable" for Jordanian families.

'Azim, who is a member of the Islamic Brotherhood, said civil servants and particularly soldiers, security personnel, teachers and truck drivers were the most vulnerable groups in society and that they were increasingly finding it difficult to live on their salaries.

He called on the government to adopt new economic ideas conforming with "the comprehensive Islamic approach." He urged the government to ease farmers' debts and to adopt a new Islamic banking system that would enable people to "participate in development of the country and attract Islamic capital from abroad."

'Azim said the government must "solve or limit the poverty problem and enhance socio-economic values through implementing the Zakat [tithe] system and establising a special institution to make collecting zakat obligatory."

He called for "a forceful adoption of the Islamic alternative and leaving an Islamic mark on all departments and institutions in all fields so that the Islamic alternative would gradually replace existing laws."

The Ma'an deputy, who did not discuss the draft budget's allocations, then proceeded to review problems facing his constituency, offering proposals for infrastructural projects and a better exploitation of the governorate's resources.

Mutayr al-Bustanji

Karak Deputy Mutayr al-Bustanji, who is a member of the House financial committee, called on the government to reduce dependence on borrowing and to encourage local investment.

"We look forward to the adoption of the draft budget as a comprehensive national plan that takes into consideration the enhancement of the state's economic institutions," al-Bustanji said in a brief speech.

He called on the government to take measures towards readdressing the problem of creeping urbanisation and towards developing local resources and giving local government more autonomy by adopting a decentralised approach.

Reflecting the same approach adopted by most other speakers Saturday, al-Busanji called for austerity but went on urging the government to allocate funds for building infrastructural projects and public services for his constituency.

'Isa al-Raymumi

Jerash Deputy 'Isa al-Raymuni delivered a lengthy speech in which he diagnosed the ills of the Jordanian economy and urged the government to take action on major issues.

He said that there were 84,000 Jordanian families "suffering from severe poverty" and that by the end of 1994, there would be 391,000 unemployed among educated Jordanians.

"Are we capable of finding jobs for all these people over the next five years?" he asked. Al-Raymuni did not say where he obtained the figures from but warned that "the worsening unemployment will sooner or later lead us to a very difficult situation which we may not be able to handle."

He blamed previous governments for the accumulated foreign debt and called for revitalising the private sector, increasing local investment, instituting administrative reform and adopting a new economic strategy that promotes exports and boosts the Kingdom's balance of trade.

"In fact," al-Raymuni said, "We need a radical reassessment of everything, beginning with the bread and ending with institutions." He expressed hope that Badran's government, which came along with the democratic transition, would be able to tackle the social and economic challenges, although, he recognised, the prime minister "does not possess a magic wand or Solomon's ring."

Al-Hirawi Ready To Intervene in East Beirut

LD0202135990 Paris Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] In Lebanon, fierce fighting resumed this morning between the supporters of general 'Awn and the Christian militia of the Lebanese Forces of Samir Ja'Ja', only a few hours after the cease-fire ended yesterday afternoon. The clashes have already led to 82 dead and 310 injured in 4 days.

Politically, they naturally benefit the new Lebanese Government, which is being challenged by Gen 'Awn. The new Lebanese President, Ilyas al-Hirawi, says he is ready to intervene militarily in East Beirut, the Christian part of the Lebanese capital, as he announced a short while ago to Alain Menargues:

[Begin recording] [Al-Hirawi] The truth is that the fighting is being waged by a handful of soldiers in the pay of Michel 'Awn. The only mission of the Lebanese Army is to safeguard Lebanon and to restore legality and national sovereignty. It is time that this fighting ceased. The Army in the east is the hostage of Gen 'Awn's personal ambitions. It must be rehabilitated so that it can play its true national role. If there were to be an appeal from all the Lebanese people in East Beirut, our Army, which is in the West, is ready to intervene immediately.

[Menargues] You are ready militarily?

[Al-Hirawi] Yes.

[Menargues] And what are you waiting for in order to do that, Mr President?

[Al-Hirawi] In order to do that, if I go back now, I give the orders; I do not want to make war either against Samir Ja'Ja' or against the Lebanese Army, which is there at the mercy of Michel 'Awn. I would like to receive an appeal in order to put an end to everything which is currently happening in the eastern region. [end recording]

Further Reportage on Continuing 'Awn-LF Conflict

Calm Continues

NC0102200290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Since 1900 today, no noteworthy security incidents have taken place. Reports from all areas speak of an atmosphere of guarded calm on all fronts.

A lengthy meeting was held at the headquarters of Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja'. Beirut Diocesan Bishop Khalil Abu-Nadir, Abbot Bulus Nu'man, and Maronite League President Lawyer Shakir Abu-Sulayman attended the meeting. It has been learned that the conferees agreed to continue the talks aimed at normalizing the situation.

'Heavy Fighting' Resumes 2 Feb

NC0202061390 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Heavy fighting broke out in 'Ayn al-Rummanah, Badaru, and Furn al-Shubbak [in East Beirut] at dawn today. This follows a period of relative calm created by the numerous mediation efforts of Bkirki [seat of Maronite patriarch] and the papal nuncio. [passage omitted]

Security sources said that at least 77 people have been killed and 298 wounded. The heavy material damage has been described as unprecedented in the past 15 years of war.

'Awn Forces Shell East Beirut

NC0202065390 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0635 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] We have just received the following report: Despite the Lebanese Forces' adherence to the cease-fire agreement, the 'Awn groups are now shelling residential areas in Sadd al-Bawshariyah, Nahr al-Mawt, al-Dubayyah, and 'Ayn al-Rummanah. The Lebanese Forces are returning fire.

LF Disarm NLP Headquarters

NC0202075790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] The Lebanese Forces' media have reported that the 'Awn troops are currently bombarding residential areas in Sadd al-Bawshariyah, Nahr al-Mawt, al-Dubayyah, and 'Ayn al-Rummanah, and that the Lebanese Forces are returning fire.

The same media sources reported the Lebanese Forces are besieging the Adma airbase. They added that the Lebanese Forces have disarmed the headquarters of the National Liberal Party [NLP] in the Sodeco area and seized eight apartments belonging to the Christian Democratic Party. Furthermore, the Lebanese Forces have placed the AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI magazine building under surveillance after discovering radio equipment.

Clashes, Shelling Reported

NC0202091090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] The 'Awn groups are continuing their acts of aggression by shelling residential neighborhoods, especially those in al-Judaydah, al-Rawdah, and al-Sabtiyah, as well as the areas of 'Ayn al-Rummanah, Furn al-Shubbak, Badaru, and al-Ashrafiyah. Some shells fell on the al-Karantinah area at approximately 1015.

Meanwhile, clashes are continuing in al-Dubayyah, where residential areas are coming under shelling from the 'Awn groups.

The Beirut-Juniyah highway remains cut in both directions for the third day in a row.

Artillery Bombards LF Headquarters

NC0202093990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Despite the attempts to calm the situation, and the ongoing efforts to consolidate the cease-fire, the 'Awn group's artillery is bombarding the headquarters of the Lebanese Forces' command. The command has warned against continuing the bombardment.

Meanwhile, shells are falling around Corniche Nahr Bayrut, al- Tahwitah, Furn al-Shubbak, and al-Dubayyah.

'Awn Positions Shelled

NC0202095890 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0930 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Violent clashes are currently raging between the 'Awn army and the Lebanese Forces. Rocket and tank fire is now being directed at the areas of 'Ayn al-Rummanah, Sadd al-Bawshariyah, Nahr al-Mawt, Badaru, Furn al-Shubbak, al-Ashrafiyah, al-Rawdah, al-Dubayyah, al-Sabtiyyah, and al-Karantina. Explosions are heard throughout the capital. The Lebanese Forces are bombarding the 'Awn army positions.

Meanwhile, the 'Awn radio station reported that army positions in northern al-Matn are coming under concentrated bombardment originating from the Lebanese Forces' artillery emplacements. The radio added that the 'Amshit barracks has been subjected to shellfire since the morning.

The al-Yarzah ['Awn forces] command has asked citizens not to travel on roads because of mines.

The 'Awn command has issued a communique accusing the Lebanese Forces of shelling army positions in 'Amshit, Badaru, Furnm al- Subbak, al-Dikwanah, and al-Fanar since this morning.

Meanwhile, a huge fire broke out in the Jall al-Dib area near the Lebanese University's college of law in East Beirut as a result of the ongoing clashes. Officials have been asked to put out the fire before it spreads to residential areas. Another fire broke out in Agip gas building in Nahr al-Mawt. Firefighters have been asked to extinguish the fire.

'Awn Forces Fire on Mountain Area

NC0202104090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] The Ra's al-Jabal area of 'Alayh came under heavy-caliber machinegun fire from the positions of 'Awn's gangs a short time ago.

Three Injured in Southern Suburb

NC0202121190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] More than 20 artillery rounds fell on areas in the Southern Suburb, particularly al-Shiyah, Ra's al-Nab', Burj al-Murr, al-Qantari, Ra's Bayrut, 'Ayn al-Muraysah, al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq, and Wadi Abu-Jamil between 1030 and 1330 today. The shells injured three citizens and caused heavy propery damage.

Security sources have just informed us that a number of shells landed on the Sfayr area in the Southern Suburb, injuring a number of citizens.

'Awn Launches 'Major Offensive'

NC0202115990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1145 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] According to the latest security reports, the 'Awn group is currently launching a major offensive after mobilizing troops and vehicles. The offensive, which began at 1300 today, is being carried out on three fronts: al-Judaydah, Nahr al-Mawt, and Sinn al-Fil. At the same time, the 'Awn group is trying to attack al- Ashrafiyah from Hayy al-Siryan. Commando units are taking part in the offensive.

'Awn elements from the 9th Brigade are attempting to launch an attack on the Lebanese Forces' Qasarijian barracks along the 'Ayn al-Rummanah front. This attack is being launched from the al-Rasas Statue axis along the Camille Sham'un Boulevard and the al-Hayah Hospital.

Clashes occurred in Tabarjah and an intensive exchange of artillery fire took place along the al-Dubayyah-al-Ashrafiyah axis and in the vicinity of the Voice of Lebanon radio station, which was the target of intensive tank fire from 'Awn's group positions for the second time today.

'Awn's forces in the port area came under attack from al-Ashrafiyah.

'Awn Forces Seize LF Barracks

NC0202134190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] A military source in the ranks of the 'Awn cliques issued a statement this afternoon in which he reported that these cliques succeeded in decisively capturing the Habib Kayruz barracks in al-Fanar, the Tall al-Za'tar barracks, the Mar Ruquz barracks, the al-Biqa' barracks in al-Tahwitah, and the Pierre Matar barracks along the Camille Sham'un Boulevard. All these barrracks belong to the Lebanese Forces.

'Awn media sources had earlier reported that units of his cliques were continuing to deal with the gunmen and with the scheme to penetrate the domestic front in an accurate and concentrated manner. The sources said

these cliques' units are confronting the gunmen's assaults, who are setting up artillery emplacements and rocket launchers inside residential areas. The sources said a number of these emplacements had been destroyed and a group of gunmen had been neutralized.

'Awn's sources added that military units are continuing to pursue the remaining gunmen and had arrested some of them in the al-Fanar area near Mar Taqla. The sources also noted that positions belonging to 'Awn in southern al-Matn were coming under rocket and artillery fire from Lebanese Forces' positions. [passage omitted]

'Some' in Eastern Areas 'Burning'

NC0202131390 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Some of the eastern areas are burning. Al-Ashrafiyah, 'Ayn al-Rummanah, al-Tahwitah, Furn al-Shubbak, Corniche al-Nahr, and several coastal areas in upper al-Matn and Kasrawan are being shelled by the 'Awn group's heavy artillery and tanks. It is an indiscriminate shelling directed against the people in their homes, hiding places, and shelters and spares no woman or man, no elderly, sick, or disabled person. The shelling is taking place amid extremely cold weather. There is no water, electricity, or sunlight.

The shelling would have been heroic had its objective been to liberate Lebanon from the foreigners who violated its sovereignty and dignity and tampered with its values. However, the shelling is all the more painful because it is directed at relatives. The citizens in the eastern area remember with pain the Syrian and Palestinian shelling and the 1,200-day war and ask: Who benefits from this destructive war and at whom is this steel, fire, and wounding hatred directed? No words can express the sorrow in the hearts of the sincere Lebanese who are suffering from this bombardment. What is hurting them more is that the bombardment is coming from parties who were supposed to defend their people, kinfolk, and brethren, not destory them. What is even more painful is that the aggressor is trying to justify the onslaught with the kind of fabricated claims that brought the country to this state of affairs.

'Awn Claims Syrians Helping LF

NC0202131990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1303 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] An hour ago, 'Awn media organs began to broadcast reports claiming that the Syrian forces have been given orders to assist the Lebanese Forces. We have learned from reliable sources that 'Awn, who has decided to hold a news conference today, had earlier called his military command to a meeting and asked them to score a victory, even if only in one position. When 'Awn had failed to make any advance by this afternoon, he issued orders to his media organs to broadcast reports that the Syrian army is assisting the Lebanese Forces so as to justify his inability to make any advance even along one front.

'Awn Withdraws Brigades From Fronts

NC0202150690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1421 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] 'Awn has withdrawn army units from the front he was assigned to defend. 'Awn has forced battalions from the 5th and 10th brigades to withdraw from the fronts to reinforce his difficult internal position. In another development, 'Awn contacted Elie Hubayqah [former chairman of Lebanese Forces Executive Committee] asking for military help and promising him a way back to the eastern area.

However, the most striking development, according to a disclosure by diplomatic sources, is that 'Awn has been in touch with General Emile Lahhud and asked him for help in the areas of Badaru and 'Amshit. However, it has been learned that Gen Lahhud turned down his request. It should be recalled that 'Awn had earlier accused Gen Lahhud of being a Syrian agent and called for his death, along with that of al-Hirawi, al-Husayni, and al-Huss.

[Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 1444 GMT in a similar report says: "'Awn has ordered the withdrawal of the 8th and 9th Brigades from the fronts. These brigades are now on their way to the areas where the fighting is taking place and thus all the military fronts have been emptied of military forces.

"A telephone call took place between 'Awn and Elie Hubayqah during which 'Awn asked Hubayqah to help him in his battle against the Lebanese Forces. Hubayqah expressed readiness to do so on condition that 'Awn ensures an open road for him back to the eastern area. 'Awn promised to do so."]

'Awn Gives Speedboats to Syrians

NC0202162490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] 'Awn has taken away military speedboats and handed them over to the Syrians following the fall of the naval barracks in Juniyah. Contacts are currently under way to regain these speedboats, which are of Western make and of a kind which the Syrians do not have.

LF Recapture Antilyas Position

NC0202170890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1701 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Dear listeners: We have just received a report that the Lebanese Forces' special units have launched an offensive in the Antilyas area and have retaken the Armenian buildings complex where the 'Awn group had closed the highway near the Golden Beach.

Lebanese Forces Statement on Fighting Resumption

NC0202104990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Statement issued by the Fifth Branch of the Lebanese Forces General Command Staff on 2 February]

[Text] Despite the commitment of all Lebanese Forces' positions and fighting units to the cease-fire agreement, and their full abidance by it, 'Awn's group continued its attempts to strengthen and fortify its positions during the night. The group has been directing artillery fire at the Lebanese Forces' command headquarters, advance units, and residential areas since this morning in a desperate attempt to advance. This forced the Lebanese Forces to deal with the situation and counter the attacks, which resulted in the surrender of the 82d Battalion of the 8th Brigade of 'Awn's group with all its members and equipment. The remaining units of the 7th Brigade have also surrendered.

More on Statement

NC0202113090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Statement issued by the Fifth Branch of the Lebanese Forces General Staff Command on 2 February]

[Text] Following the failure of the 'Awn group's attack on the Lebanese Forces' forward positions in northern al-Matn, and as a result of the chaotic situation among the attackers after their plans were thwarted, the 'Awn group's artillery began shelling residential neighborhoods in al-Bawshariyah, al-Dawrah, al-Nab'ah, al-Ashrafiyah, and al-Karantinah with heavy 150-mm and 180—mm guns. In addition, 'Awn's tank and heavy-caliber artillery began a frenzied bombardment of the areas of 'Ayn al-Rummanah and Furn al-Shubbak, where shells are falling on residential areas and peaceful citizens in their homes.

The Fifth Branch of the Lebanese Forces general staff command affirms that the 'Awn media reports about advances being made in certain areas are only intended to raise the morale of 'Awn's group and that all attacks have been checked.

VOL Interviews Lebanese Forces' Ja'ja'

NC0202165290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1424 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Telephone interview with Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' by unidentified correspondent—live]

[Text] [Correspondent] Doctor, first of all we congratulate you on your safety. We have been trying to contact you since this morning. Finally, we made a call and your media official told us it was now possible for us to speak to you. Our first question, Doctor...

[Ja'ja', interrupting] How could you contact me while they were directing their artillery at the Lebanese Forces Council? However, there is no problem.

[Correspondent] Doctor, the first question is: What happened today? There was an agreement over a cease-fire and suddenly the security situation erupted. What are the facts?

[Ja'ja'] In reality, we have had enough lies over the past year. We have had enough fabricated news, and premeditated schemes. I mean, I really do not feel like speaking about this matter. The intention is clear: The destruction of the Lebanese Forces. Why should we deceive each other? Cease-fire agreements are being made for the purpose of further mobilization and preparation. From this premise, it is natural, I mean it is not natural... [Ja'ja' changes thought] I had a doubt and it was proved right; namely, that a cease-fire was being arranged for the purpose of attempting new attacks on the Lebanese Forces. Consequently, I have prepared myself so that the lesson this time would be harder. And in fact in the early hours of this morning there were new attempts to occupy our positions in Beirut and other areas. Our response was very violent. Sir, this time we were forced to capture all the army's barracks and positions in 'Amshit. In other areas we were forced not merely to repulse the assaults, but also to advance and seize some army positions. It is regrettable that our forces were not primarily designed to fight each other internally, but in the final analysis every one of us has the right to self-defense. I have told you what has been happening in the past 24 hours.

[Correspondent] Another question, Doctor. Apparently there are negotiations among political and spiritual figures. What is the content of these negotiations? What are the Lebanese Forces' demands?

[Ja'ja'] The purpose of the negotiations is certainly to seek a solution to the current crisis. Now, the Lebanese Forces' demand is very reasonable. First, the decision to abolish the Lebanese Forces must be retracted. Am I asking too much, as commander of the Lebanese Forces, if I demand the retraction of the decision to abolish the Lebanese Forces? Second, we demand a return to normal free political life in the eastern area. Since the days of the Ottoman Turks, we have not witnessed a political situation like the one which we have experienced this year. If we kept silent out of a general appreciation of the situation, our sense of duty, and a desire to place the vital before the important, this does not mean that we were ready to relinquish our political liberties forever. From this premise, our conditions, as I have said, are two: First, the retraction of the decision to abolish the Lebanese Forces. As long as such a decision exists, I am not willing to discuss anything. The second point is a return to normal political life in the eastern area. We no longer accept this demagogic, chaotic, tyrannical, and military logic.

[Correspondent] Doctor, the people are in the shelters and the bombardment is still going on as of this moment. The citizens are asking how they are to be delivered from this situation.

[Ja'ja'] Really, I do not know if we have many options any longer. I believe the time has come to reorganize the existing arrangement in the eastern area. I do not know if the existing arrangement, I mean for a year now we have had only catastrophes and problems. [sentence as heard] There were outside issues which did not meet what was required of them and there were internal issues which produced results contrary to the ones hoped for. We either had external events which did not work out or internal developments which produced results contrary to the required ones. In my view a reconsideration of this entire situation is necessary.

[Correspondent] Doctor, what would you like to say to the citizens now?

[Ja'ja'] I would like to say this: I want us to continue to have great hopes for the future although what is happening is very regrettable. Difficult stages occur in the history of nations. Catastrophes happen that one cannot avoid. Citizens: I have been trying now for 1 year and 3 months peacefully to avoid the ordeal we are now undergoing. I waited days, weeks, 1, 2, 3, 5, 10 months, a year. Eventually, the cancer reached a stage where it was going to spread to the entire body and consume it. Anyhow, let our hopes remain high. My view is this: Let us continue trying to reach the best solution possible. We need to reconsider this entire arrangement. After that I hope that in a very short time we will put all these incidents behind us and embark on serious work for the future.

On this occasion, I want to say that it is shameful to fabricate news. It is shameful to achieve victories on the radio waves. We had enough of Ahmad Sa'id [Cairo Voice of the Arabs chief commentator prior to 1967] and we saw where his policy led. From this premise, we say that a media war leads nowhere. I would like everyone to go out and see what is happening. At one time, they said they had captured three Lebanese Forces members. Let me relate this story as an example. They said that they had captured three Lebanese Forces members and one of them was Syrian, the other Iraqi, and the third a Lebanese. Brother, this report is fundamentally faulty. Say one of them was Iraqi, one Egyptian, and the third Lebanese. This would work. But when they say there were an Iraqi, a Syrian, and a Lebanese the story falls apart. The Iraqi and Syrian would never go together, nor would the Syrian and Lebanese go together. They fabricate reports. They claim that the Sarba barracks fell because the young men [Lebanese Forces fighters] seized the officers' families and threatened to harm them unless the officers surrendered. Wrong. This is a lie. I would like you to contact the officers' families and the Sarba barracks officers and ask them how the barracks fell. Basically the Sarba barracks fell because its officers considered this war a shameful absurdity and refused to take part in it.

I hope that very soon we will be rid of this entire situation. I greatly regret what is happening. At the same time I cannot go along with the decision to abolish the Lebanese Forces. We cannot remain sheep that are being herded in the eastern area as has been the case for the past 7,8,10 months.

[Correspondent] Doctor, we have one last question about the military situation. Where are we now and what do you want to say to reassure the citizens in this regard?

[Ja'ja'] Kasrawan and Jubayl are under the total control of the Lebanese Forces. We are still holding all our former positions in Beirut. Today these positions were subjected to major attacks. Regrettably, instead, as we had expected, of directing these attacks against the Syrian enemies in order to liberate Lebanon, they are launched them to liberate the eastern area from the Lebanese Forces. No matter. These positions were subjected to major attacks which were repulsed. In some places we were forced to pursue the attacking force to prevent it from repeating the attack. All right?

[Correspondent] Thank you, Doctor.

[Ja'ja'] I would like to add that the rumors claiming that the battles are being fought near the Lebanese Forces Military Council are not true. This is not true. The Lebanese Forces are still holding their original positions in Beirut: from Nahr al-Mawt, al-Judaydah, Sadd al-Bawshariyah, Sinn al-Fil, the Fiat area, to al-Ashrafiyah and all Beirut. Okay? And in 'Ayn al-Rummanah of course. This is the area where the resistance began and it cannot be completed without it. This must be said for 'Ayn al-Rummanah: 'Ayn al-Rummanah is used to confronting foreign Syrian armies, accustomed to confronting large forces. It is not difficult for it to confront some gangs which are trying to attack it.

[Correspondent] It appears that we are currently receiving direct hits, just like 'Ayn al-Rummanah and all the residential neighborhoods.

[Ja'ja'] I am not surprised. They want to silence every free voice and every radio station not under their control, every television station, and every other media organ. Anyhow, think of what happened before the recent incidents, which we tried to avoid. They came up with a decision which in reality was a decision to end journalistic liberties under fabricated and forged slogans. Therefore, do not be surprised by what is happening. Now after everything that has happened, they try to circumvent you and tell you it is all right.

[Correspondent] This is true. Doctor, what is the final word that you want to address to the citizens?

[Ja'ja'] I tell them not to worry. Nothing will happen except what they want. We are carrying on. We have great hopes for the future. Okay?

[Correspondent] May God give you health and strength. Thank you, Doctor.

[Ja'ja'] Thank you.

Maronite Patriarch Contacts 'Awn, Ja'ja'

NC0202121690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Dispatch by unidentified correspondent]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] A meeting chaired by Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr began at 0915 today and ended at noon. [passage omitted]

Following the meeting, Patriarch Sfayr addressed the following appeal:

[Begin Sfayr recording] In the name of God, conscience, and the homeland, in our name and in the name of your patriarchs and the general chiefs of the monastic orders meeting in Bkirki, we call on the commands of the army and the Lebanese Forces to cease fire immediately. People's lives and property cannot be gambled with in this way. Do not continue this mass suicide. Have mercy on yourselves and the people and fear God in your homeland. [end recording]

[Correspondent] The Voice of Lebanon has learned that Patriarch Sfayr briefed those at the meeting on his meeting yesterday with Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente, who told the patriarch of the Vatican's dismay at the present conditions in the eastern area, where Christian citizens are paying the price for officials' misconduct. A discussion took place on ways to restore calm and normal life to the area. Bishop Abu-Nadir briefed the conferees on the results of the contact between General Michel 'Awn and [Lebanese Forces Commander] Dr. Samir Ja'ja' yesterday. During the meeting, the conferees were told about the resumption of the shelling. Patriarch Sfayr immediately contacted Dr. Ja'ja', who told the patriarch that his headquarters had come under concentrated violent artillery bombardment, which led to a resumption of artillery shelling. Patriarch Sfayr then contacted Gen. 'Awn. Sfayr was heard to say: The people are beginning to lose faith. This is a foolish situation. I demand a halt to the fighting. The people are the property of their God and nobody else. Another contact was then held with Dr. Ja'ja' following which Bishop Abu-Nadir left the meeting and went immediately to Dr. Ja'Ja's headquarters. He will later go to B'abda.

Cease-Fire Agreement Reported Reached 2 Feb

NC0202124790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in English 1245 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon [VOL] learned that the efforts of religious and political active forces have resulted in a cease-fire agreement, and this is supposed to have begun at 2 o'clock this afternoon. The Lebanese Forces observed the cease-fire and respected it, but it seems that the Lebanese army has not till yet.

Red Cross Appeals for Truce To Help Victims

NC0202162990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1535 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] We have received the following statement from the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC]:

The ferocious clashes that have been going on constantly for several days in Lebanon are a cause of concern to the ICRC. Because of the intensive battles, the injured have not been treated and the corpses of the dead have not been removed. A number of hospitals which have been shelled can no longer provide their services. It has become very difficult to reach the students who have remained in their schools and the unarmed civilians. In view of this painful situation, the ICRC addresses a new appeal to all the warring parties to respect and reach an early truce that would enable humanitarian organizations to help the victims.

Attacks on Lahd, Israeli Positions Reported

NC0102191690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] According to security reports from the occupied strip, a unit of agent Lahd's militia has entered the village of al-Habbariyah, which is situated within the range of operations of the Norwegian contingent of the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon, searched four homes, and arrested one citizen.

To the north of Hasbayya, a nationalist resistance group attacked Lahd's barracks on Zaghlah hill. The group used rockets and machineguns in the 30-minute attack, during which it destroyed a military vehicle and scored a direct hit on the barracks. Lahd's militia later searched the nearby areas for 3 hours, firing dozens of illumination rounds.

The operations room of the resistance in the South has issued the following statement:

In keeping with the teachings of Imam al-Sadr and the example of the great martyrs, at 1750 on 31 January one of the groups of the Iqlim al-Tuffah Martyrs of the Martyrs Unit of the Lebanese Resistance Battalions-Amal attacked a joint position of the Zionist enemy and its agents on al-Shumariyah hill. Using machineguns and rockets, the group clashed with personnel manning the position, succeeded in destroying a machinegun nest, and injured several of the enemy personnel.

Meanwhile, a source at the resistance operations room has said that chaos spread in the ranks of the Lahd militia following recent attacks by the resistance in which five vehicles were destroyed and a large number of personnel injured, including a Zionist officer.

The source stated that a number of trials are under way in which Zionist and Lahd officials have been charged

with negligence for failing to discover the explosive charges which blew up an Israeli patrol on the Bra'shit-Bayt Yahun road.

Afghanistan

'Text' of Najibullah's 24 Jan News Conference

LD2601224290 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari
1130 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Kabul, 25 Jan (BAKHTAR)—Text of Afghan President Najibullah's news conference for foreign and domestic journalists at the Foreign Ministry's Storey Palace on 24 January 1990:

I am pleased to see you in Kabul under conditions in which the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan and our brave people, with courage and bravery, are defending independently and are safeguarding their country's independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

Dear friends: Some 2 years ago, the Geneva Accords on the situation in Afghanistan were signed. Approximately a year ago, the limited military forces of the Soviet Union were withdrawn from Afghanistan. During the past year, so many changes and developments have taken place in the sociopolitical, economic, and military spheres in the country that we cannot explain all of them here.

It is clear to you, esteemed journalists and the world's public, that on the eve of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the Republic of Afghanistan, a hue and cry was raised in the Western media alleging that after the withdrawal of the Soviet troops the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan would not be able to defend the homeland and national sovereignty. These radios and mass media were giving only days, weeks, or months before the collapse of the government. However, the events after the withdrawal of the Soviet troops proved all these predictions wrong, and the courageous Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan proved in action that with the support of the people we can foil and crush all conspiracies, provocations, and aggressions against our country.

After the withdrawal of Soviet troops, the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan not only courageously and decisively defended the country's independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity, but, despite the continuation of the undeclared war, has achieved other enormous gains as well.

After the conclusion of the Geneva Accords on withdrawal of Soviet troops, which was a major pretext for the armed opposition extremists and their supporters, not only did the war not stop, but it gained wider and broader dimensions. The attacks and even aggression by the extremists on the cities—especially Jalalabad, Khowst, and Qandahar—were increased, which provided grounds for the merciless killing and massacre of hundreds of our persecuted compatriots.

The U.S. and Pakistani sides, past parties to and guarantors of these accords, not only did not remain faithful to their commitments, but have increased to a great degree their intervention in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, while the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan has conveyed the instances of violations of the Geneva Accords to the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Afghan and Soviet sides have made all possible efforts to implement these accords.

The Soviet Union, as an old friend of the people of Afghanistan, has extended its assistance in various fields to the Afghan people during this period, particularly in the economic field. All this assistance, which has been extended in accordance with contracts and bilateral protocols, has played an important role in the people's life.

Over the past year, the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan—through the April Loya Jerga, the 44th UN General Assembly Session, the session of the heads of states and foreign ministers of the Nonaligned countries, and various statements and speeches—has put forward peace proposals up to and including the formation of a coalition council in Kabul with the participation of all forces and under UN supervision. However, regrettably, it must be said that the chieftains of the armed opposition groups and the Pakistani militarists who follow the slogans of war to the last Afghan have unwisely rejected these constructive, peacemaking proposals.

Despite all this, we believe that peace can be established in Afghanistan by means of dialogue and understanding, not by means of war. We go forward toward this noble goal with sincerity and decisiveness, and we will be successful.

After this short preface, esteemed journalists may now ask their questions.

Question by an ASSOCIATED PRESS correspondent from the United States: How do you assess the French decision to reopen its embassy in Kabul? Do you think this decision is a kind of vote of confidence in your government?

Question by an AFP correspondent: The decision by the French Government to reopen its embassy was criticized by the NATO member countries. They claim that this decision means the acceptance of the government of President Najibullah. Could you explain this decision by France and the reaction by NATO? [two successive questions as received]

Answer: A year ago, some Western countries withdrew their embassy staffs from Kabul, apparently under the pretext of a lack of security. However, diplomatic relations between these countries and the Republic of Afghanistan have not been broken. The realities of the past year proved wrong the predictions of a number of Western countries on the situation in Kabul and other regions of the country and with regard to the Afghan Government's ability to survive. Now that a number of Western countries, including France, want to return

their embassy staffs to Kabul, we welcome them. We declare once again that the Repubic of Afghanistan is prepared to insure the security of the foreign diplomats based on the Vienna Convention. Therefore, all the countries that withdrew their staffs from Kabul can restart their diplomatic tasks with confidence.

Question by an ASSOCIATED PRESS correspondent from the United States: What is your view in connection with the recent development in Eastern Europe? Do you think that the Soviet Union is undergoing a process of reducing its foreign commitments to traditional allies in neighboring countries?

Answer: The situation in Eastern Europe is the result of the accumulated problems that affected the political, social, and economical spheres. The transformations that have recently taken place in Eastern Europe resulting from the demand of the people of those countries are directed toward the removal of these problems.

As far as it concerns Afghanistan, I want to mention that the relations between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union are based on traditional friendly ties and good-neighborliness. That country's assistance to the Republic of Afghanistan in various fields is continuing. This assistance and cooperation is based on the long-term agreements and protocols signed between the two countries. It is in accordance with intergovernmental norms and standards and takes into account the interests of the people of the two countries and is in the interest of peace in the region and the world. We have not noticed any disinterest by the Soviet Union toward fulfilling its [word indistinct] committments.

Question by an ASSOCIATED PRESS correspondent and a Swiss television journalist: If you felt that your resignation from the post of president would be a key to direct negotiations with the opposition, would you do such a thing?

Answer: Unfortunately, such a precondition has always been used as a pretext to continue warmongering policies. Would it be correct if we were to demand that the leaders of formations and groups resign from their posts before the start of negotiations? How could one be sure that even if this precondition were met by a number of the opposition, they would not discuss another pretex in order to avoid negotiations with the state of the Republic of Afghanistan and to continue their warmongering and irreconcilable stance? Reconciliation among the hostile forces requires coming to terms with each other, not relinquishing power. However, if in the process of negotiations a need is felt to relinquish power, I assure you that I will sacrifice everything for the sake of establishing peace in Afghanistan.

Question: NEWSWEEK reporter from the United States: A year ago, Eastern bloc and Western officials were both predicting the toppling of your government after the withdrawal of Soviet troops in February 1989; are you not surprised by the inability of the guerrillas to launch an effective invasion?

Answer: The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan during tis 10 years of existence has been transformed into a powerful socioeconomic and political system which has the support of various strata of the people. This system has proved in practice its ability in administration and leadership in all dimensions of the country's life, and in defense of the national interest and honor against foreign aggression. Therefore, the predictions about the stability of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan on the eve of the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan were not based on the objective realities of our society, as experience has proved their incorrect nature.

On the other hand, after the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, the pretexts that existed for the continuation of the war are no longer there. Hence, the ranks of the armed opposition forces are tired of war, most of them do not fight, and the independence of the commanders inside the country in relation to the chieftains of the seven-party alliance are increasing. These commanders are thinking further about the national interest in ending the war and fratricide. On the other side, the increasing support of the people for the policy of national reconciliation is another factor for the weakness and inability of the armed oppostion to launch an effective invasion against the Republic of Afghanistan.

Question: NEWSWEEK Magazine: Do you expect a serious war after the ending of winter?

Answer: We believe that war can solve no problem. During the past year, the joint enemy forces many times launched broad attacks on border cities of our country with all their might, to which a decisive and crushing reply was given by the heroic Armed Forces of the country. We can say clearly that if the armed opposition are planning to launch another broad attack in the future on any of the country's localities, the reply given to them this time will be much stronger and more devastating than before. The courageous and brave Armed Forces of our country are at a such level of preparedness, combat readiness, and high morale that they can easily defend the independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the country—as they have proved their worthiness in action.

Question: NEWSWEEK correspondent: In your speech on 1 January on the occasion of the anniversary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA], the party was invited to broaden its bases by including other political and religious groups. You also, however, said that the PDPA will maintain its unique power and control by playing a vanguard leadership role in other groups. Is this sharing of power a reality?

Answer: The PDPA, as the largest sociopolitical organization, has put forward the initiative of giving up the monopoly of power and will continue to follow this. Active attraction of other political forces inside and outside the country, influential figures, and all strata of society in a coalition administration with broad social

bases is one of the important duties of the party as an organizer of the policy of national reconciliation. Hence, the PDPA, which is the designer and initiator of the policy of national reconciliation, is endeavoring earnestly to realize this policy as well as to consolidate the system of politicial pluralism in the country.

Question: NEWSWEEK correspondent: Why do you not set up a multiparty system such as in Poland, Hungary, and other East bloc countries?

Answer: For your further information, I must say that one of the important gains of the policy of national reconciliation is the creation of a multiparty system and political pluralism in the country. The political parties law came into effect in our country in 1366 [March 1987-March 1988]. At the very moment, on the side of the PDPA are eight political parties and organizations, which are operating with their independent thoughts and programs. A large number of these political parties and organizations publish their own newspapers and publications. Therefore, it can be seen that the Republic of Afghanistan in this respect is more advanced than the East European countries. Of course, every country has its own specific characteristics, and we would not allow ourselves to copy the [word indistinct] of other countries.

Question: Zadanik Haretesia, a journalist from Czechoslovakia: In your view, what will be the situation in Afghanistan in the year 2000?

Answer: It is not only our desire, but we firmly believe that a durable peace and security will be restored in our country in the year 2000 and the people of Afghanistan will enjoy material and spiritual tranquillity, and our country will forge ahead with fast, firm, and strong steps toward progress and prosperity.

Question: Santash Komar, an Indian journalist: Taking into account the fact that the Armed Forces of Afghanistan have earned victories in foiling the attacks by mujahidin supported by Pakistan after the withdrawal of the Soviet forces, do you think the Armed Forces of Afghanistan are able to defend their country at the beginning of a revolt without the existence of the Soviet forces? Also, in your view, was the invitation of the Soviet forces by the previous regimes an incorrect action?

Answer: The situation which resulted in the creation of the situation in and around Afghanistan has a very complex nature. The issue of the arrival of the Soviet forces in the Republic of Afghanistan and their return to their country has become a piece of history. What is now more urgent and vital, in my view, is to concentrate all efforts and attention on a peaceful future. I approve the recent assessment by the current leadership of the Soviet Union in connection with sending Soviet military forces to the Republic of Afghanistan.

Another question by the same journalist: Taking into account the fact that Pakistan renders assistance continuously to the insurgents both in Afghanistan and in India, is there any proposal or possibility for a joint action between India and Afghanistan to prevent and crush the machinery of Pakistan's assistance to the insurgents of India and Afghanistan, who cause instability and tension in the region?

Answer: We believe that the best way to resolve issues and conflicts should be by peaceful solution. Not by military solution. Military solutions have no winners. Therefore, while the Republic of Afghanistan is in a high level of readiness and resources from the viewpoint of power and ablity, based on loyalty to the abovementioned principle, it wishes that the state of Pakistan should not allow adventureous groups using Pakistani territory or facilities put at their disposals by Pakistan to destroy the relations of that country with its neighbors. Peace in the region and in the world requires mutual respect by the countries to the independence [word indistinct] and territorial integrity of other countries.

Another question by the Indian correspondent: Which countries will help you revive the destroyed economy of Afghanistan?

Answer: The reconstruction of Afghanistan needs an extensive, continuous, and comprehensive program. As a result of the continuation of the imposed war, huge damage has been inflicted on our country's economy. The Republic of Afghanistan wishes that all friendly and peace-loving countries of the world provide assistance to us so that we may realize this great cause. The role of the United Nations is important and significant in this regard. Of course, a number of countries currently provide assistance to the Republic of Afghanistan in various fields, and this is being received by our people and our country with appreciation and thanks.

Another question by the Indian correspondent: The majority of the population of more than 40 countries in Asia and Africa are Muslim. How many of these countries render assistance to the mujahidin?

Answer: I think it is a very limited number of Islamic countries. They are those who for their own intents and purposes support the armed opposition to the Republic of Afghanistan. Other Islamic countries do not have much interest in this subject.

Question by Ryhan Shahed Kardar, a Pakistani journalist: Do you anticipate any changes in the U.S. stance?

Answer: Unfortunately, no perceptible changes in the U.S. stand toward the Republic of Afghanistan has been seen. Our desire is that the United States should reconsider its stand with regard to Afghanistan, taking into account the current realities and paying attention to world public opinion and the increasing tendency which has formed among the social and political circles of the

United States and among the influential legislative figures as well as the U.S. mass media itself, and the United States should adjust to these realities.

Another question by the Pakistani journalist: In your view, what type of agreement is possible with the mujahidin?

Answer: The Republic of Afghanistan has explained the possibilities for attaining an agreement with the armed opposition to achieve a comprehensive solution for the issue in and around Afghanistan in its recent proposals within a peace plan together with a specific mechanism for its implementation. The basic lines of our proposed mechanism are as follows:

Commencement of dialogue and talks between the Republic of Afghanistan and the armed opposition who favor peace in the country.

Holding a national peace conference in which representatives of all parties, groups, organizations, and political personalities should take part as participants.

Declaration of cease-fire for 6 months.

Creation of a leadership council by the peace conference.

Establishment of a commission to draft a constitution and a law on elections from the leadership council.

Formation of a coalition government with the participation of parties and groups included in the leadership council.

Holding a grand assembly to approve of the constitution and the law on elections.

General elections should be held and such elections can be held under international supervision.

And finally, a new government should be formed by a party or a coalition of several parties.

Another question by the same journalist: Have you noticed any changes in the Soviet stance?

Answer: When the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union agreed that the limited units of the Soviet Union were to be withdrawn from the Republic of Afghanistan at this time, as a matter of fact, a noticeable change took place in their positions toward regional events and problems for the interest of securing peace in the region and the world. The Soviet Union has implemented all its commitments in the Geneva Accords, and at the present time, too, works and strives actively and earnestly for the restoration and consolidation of peace in this region.

Question by Pakistani journalist: Can you express your view concerning the refugees resuming their normal life and the difficulties that exist in this area?

Answer: The issue of refugees is a complicated and very difficult problem. As far as the Republic of Afghanistan is concerned, basic steps have been taken for the resumption of a calm and prosperous life for the refugees, and other specific measures are underway. The government is ready to welcome its refugee compatriots with open arms and provide the necessary facilities for their transfer to their respective provinces and for their resettlement. In this respect, all facilities will be put in their disposal. In order to facilitate the transportation of the refugees and their honorable resettlement and to carry out all major tasks in the best manner, the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan has upgraded the department in charge of the refugees to the level of a ministry. It must be stated that the assistance and cooperation of the friendly countries and international associations can assist us in executing this major task.

Question by AFP reporter: Since our last meeting on 24 December 1988, historic events have taken place in the Soviet Union and in Eastern Europe. Moscow regards the dispatch of military forces into Afghanistan as a mistake, and the communist regimes were toppled one after another, mostly without bloodshed. What, in your view, is the relevance of these events to Afghanistan, particularly to your government?

Answer: As I mentioned earlier to you, I repeat that once again the events that have taken place in the East European countries are the result of interaction of political, economic, and social factors of these countries which, of course, cannot be irrelevant to regional and global events and developments. If we want to draw a parallel between developments in Eastern Europe and Afghanistan, we should refer to 3 years ago, when the Republic of Afghanistan undertook a series of far-reaching political and socioeconomic initiatives and reforms, whose realization resulted in the formation of the present system, based on the principle of political pluralism and a multisectoral economy. After a short while, the new constitution was introduced and parliament was constituted on the basis of free elections and began to operate. New economic policies, relying mainly on market factors and the attraction of private domestic and foreign capital, have been put into effect. New peace proposals and the mechanism for their implementation have been put forward in line with the legitimate desires of all political forces in Afghanistan which, as a whole, demonstrate a fundamental change in all walks of our society's life. Of course, there are enormous lessons that we continuously learn from the developments in Eastern Europe and in other countries of the world.

Question by NEWSWEEK reporter from the United States: Diplomats praise your endeavor for peace and reconciliation. However, your opposition has rejected this because you were earlier in charge of the secret police organization called KHAD, or WAD, and you were accused by the opposition of the merciless beating, torture, and imprisonment of thousands of Afghans. In your view, how can they accept as their national leader the person who headed the KHAD organization?

The above reporter raised another question: In consideration of your past role in KHAD and in consideration of the opposition's feelings, how can you conduct a genuine reconciliation with the guerrilla leaders, their followers, and supporters?

Answer: In countries with different sociopolitical systems there are many examples of leaders who in the past were in charge of the security and intelligence services of their country. I think that the esteemed journalist must look a little bit to his own country. The positive and active role played by the security organs of Afghanistan in defense of the national interest has been commended by the people of Afghanistan. Naturally, the awarness, wisdom, decisiveness, and effectiveness of the Ministry of State Security in repulsing and foiling conspiracies, terrorist and anti-Afghan activities, cannot and could not please the organizers of such activities. [Passage indistinct] The unfounded accusations against this organ are a pretext for avoiding talks and for continuing the war levelled from their warmongering positions.

Question by NEWSWEEK reporter and AFP reporter: During the past months, KHAD has arrested 127 military officers, including a number of senior officers, as guerrilla agents, on charges of conspiring against the government. Is the internal threat against the government over, or is there still the possibility of a guerrilla network in the government or Armed Forces?

Answer: For a long time, the government security forces have had in their sights the antigovernment and antisecurity activities of a number of individuals belonging to the armed opposition groups. The recent arrests promptly prevented these groups' subversive actions. Some small numbers of opponent networks may still exist in the state of the Republic of Afghanistan. I can tell you with confidence that they cannot pose any threat to the sovereignty of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Question: Correspondent of the U.S. NEWSWEEK: Some guerrilla leaders say that the war will continue for another 5 years. What is your view concerning the continuation of the war?

Answer: The main reason for the continuation of war is interference, particularly foreign interference, and aggression launched contrary to the Geneva Accords and other established principles of international law, which is largely carried out through Pakistan. If such actions cease, the war will end as soon as possible.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, despite having the full capability to defend itself and national sovereignty, continuously strives to resolve the internal issues of Afghanistan through talks and dialogue.

Question: NEWSWEEK Correspondent: If you succeed in achieving a political solution, there remain thousands of weapons and large-scale caches of weapons in the hands of individuals. Do you expect possible bloodshed in tribal regions, like the civil war in Lebanon?

Answer: I believe that if a broad political solution of the issues in and around Afghanistan is reached, if efforts are made by all belligerent parties to end the war and restore peace through talks and dialogue, if foreign interference in our country's internal affairs ends, if the Geneva Accords are earnestly implemented in practice, and if the export of weapons to our country is halted, a durable and nationwide peace definitely will be restored in our country, and hence every clash and creation of conflict will be prevented. The Republic of Afghanistan's plan concerning the demilitarization of the country through credible international guarantees will be another warranty for the prevention of another conflict.

Question: WASHINGTON POST correspondent from the United States: Do you, Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, and your government take into consideration the security of the process of the sh'ura [council], the convocation of which was announced by the provisional government in Peshawar this week?

Answer: In consideration of the fact that the issues surrounding Afghanistan must be resolved inside Afghanistan by the Afghans themselves, the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, in a statement dated January 1990, has expressed its view concerning the convocation of a shura or any other kind of session that takes place with the participation of the Afghans themselves. As every gathering and activity that takes place outside the country's borders and on the instructions of others cannot be approved by our people, the government has announced and is ready to hold such a session—with the participation of all belligerent forces—in Kabul, which is the capital of the country, and will guarantee the full security of its participants.

Question: WASHINGTON POST correspondent: Which path is acceptable and which path is not acceptable for the solution of issues to the president of Afghanistan?

Answer: Any decision that is made unanimously by all forces involved through talks and dialogue and that leads to the cessation of war and bloodshed will be observed and respected by us. Of course, decisions and resolutions that do not reflect the view and will of the people of Afghanistan and made on the instruction of specific circles will not be observed by the leadership of Afghanistan, because they do not reflect the interest of people and high interests of our country.

Question: Swiss television reporter: Are you satisfied with the progress of the national reconciliation process?

Answer: The process of national reconciliation or national compromise is successfully going ahead, and noticeable results have been achieved.

However, we believe that the success achieved would have been much greater had it not been for the obstacles created on this road.

Question: Another question by the same reporter. It appears that a fresh talks between the United States and Soviet Union on resolution of Afghanistan issues are going to be held. In your view, what is the cornerstone of such an agreement?

Answer: The draft peace plan by the Afghan Government and the mechanism for its realization can be a good framework—or, as you say, cornerstone—for the solution of Afghan issues.

Question: Another question by the Swiss television reporter: Do you fear that a decision might be made without your consultation or your government's consultation?

Answer: We believe that only the people of Afghanistan have the right to decide the future of their country, and any efforts made by other countries which are consistent and conform with the interests and wishes of the people of Afghanistan will be approved by us, too.

Question: Soviet television correspondent: Please give some information about the victories of the Armed Forces during last year near Jalalabad City and all over the country, in general.

Answer: We not only protected positions that we held before the withdrawal of the Soviet forces all over the country and in provinces, district, and sub-districts, but we embarked on offensives in some directions. We also prevented the economic blockade of the cities, which was planned by the opposition after the withdrawal of the Soviet forces. As you have noticed and witnessed, this winter is not as harsh and as difficult as that of last year. The Afghan state has been able to transport more than .5 million tonnes of commodities from Hayratan to Kabul and from Kabul to other provinces during the last 10 months. This year Our Armed Forces were able to deliver a huge foodstuffs and supply convoy from Towraghondi to Qandahar to provide primary goods to the people in the west of the country. You are also aware that we have began another offensive in the southeast of the country. There are many things to be said in this connection; however, I think these gains are just examples.

Question: TASS correspondent: With your proposed peace plan, you mentioned elections. Up to what limit will the results of these elections be acceptable to you?

Answer: We are seriously committed to what we proposed. I want to mention with confidence that the Republic of Afghanistan will accept any results of free elections. It will not use force or power in order to change their results. Of course, such a commitment cannot be one-sided. This fact requires that similar statements and commitments be issued officially by the opposition, which means by removing the causes for fear, pressure, and intimidation, complete freedom should be given to the people of Afghanistan from both sides. The results of the elections, what ever they might be, will be acceptable to us and should be accepted and observed by the other side, too.

Question: BIA representative: Esteemed Najibullah, President of Afghanistan, will the Republic of Afghanistan agree to form united forces that include the Armed Forces of Afghanistan and those of the opposition?

Answer: In principle, we do not have any objection to the formation of a united armed forces. However, we predict the formation of united armed forces to take place only in the final stage, after the formation of a broad-based government. Up to that date each side will keep their armed forces and regions under their control by observing a cease-fire. Of course, the mechanism for the merger of the armed forces of both sides will be established by a broad-based government.

Question by Abdullah Shahdan, representative of the Union of Afghan journalists: You have mentioned a cease-fire and negotiations with the opposition in your proposed peace plan. However, a number of the opposition disagree with the use of the term "cease-fire." Please give your view in this regard.

Answer: As we sincerely and truly favor ending war and establishing peace in our war-hit country, we do not want the use of words or terms to create obstacles on the path to peace. If the opposition interprets these terms differently, it is up to them. The aim of the Republic of Afghanistan is to end war and bloodshed. If the opposition disagrees with the use of the expression "cease-fire," we can reconcile this issue, too, for the sake of further concession. Instead of using the expression "cease-fire," we can use the expression "break in combat operations" and "halt in combat operations." We do not see any problem in this regard.

Question by a correspondent of the ASSOCIATED PRESS, United States of America: I want to avoid the political side by asking you a personal question. As a leader, what are your positive characteristics and what are your weak points?

Answer: I think, under the present conditions, my most outstanding characteristic and fear is my enormous interest in and love of ensuring peace in our country, which the people of Afghanistan need desperately. My worst characteristic would be for me to feel free from this sacred path and aspiration, even for 1 second.

Question by a WASHINGTON POST correspondent: You proposed in your peace plan a 6-month cease-fire simultaneous with the commencement of negotiations with the opposition, and then free elections under UN supervision. If possibly the results become such that the opposition agreed with your proposals and elections took place, would you try to keep the post of president during the election campaign?

Answer: I have answered this question before. The result of elections, whatever they might be, will be accepted and respected by us.

I think that in democratic principles, which are very notable, especially for our American friends here, an

adult should have the opportunity at any stage to be elected or to participate in elections. Such preconditions should not be discussed for the sake of spirit and principles of democracy. However, I mentioned to you earlier that any issue and any problem can be assessed at the table during dialogue among the various sides, and an acceptable and logical solution can be achieved for all the sides involved.

Question by a REUTER correspondent: What role can the former king of Afghanistan play in the current peace process?

Answer: Not only former King of Afghanistan Mohammed Zahir Shah, but all political forces, parties, organizations and other national figures can play a positive role in ensuring peace. I think Mohammad Zahir Shah, taking into account his good political, social, and spiritual stance in society, can play an effective role in ensuring peace in the country.

Question by a correspondent of NEWSWEEK of the United States: There are comments by the U.S. Government regarding the active role of the Soviet Union in the process of using Scud missiles in Afghanistan. I ask: What role do Soviet advisers play in Afghanistan?

Answer: Such claims are far from the truth. Only the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan take part in organizing combat operations. Instead of trying to find out who is firing the rockets, let us come and discuss our proposed plan for a cease-fire, for handing over arms, and for the demilitarization of Afghanistan, so that all these claims and accusations, which are a slim section of the old tradition of the cold war, can be removed.

Question by Argentine journalist: The main point of U.S. foreign policy at present is to control the smuggling of narcotics. Recently, Asia, and particularly regions in Afghanistan, have drawn the attention of the United States. Do you see any changes in the U.S. approach in this regard?

Answer: It is a very interesting question. We are surprised and the world should be surprised, too, if the United States allows itself—under the pretext of a campaign against narcotics and with a direct attack on Panama—to take General Noriega to its country as a hostage and seek to try him in America. On the contrary, despite the fact that it has been reported by various Western sources, including various U.S. sources, that Golbodin Hekmatyar is one of the top narcotics smugglers and even runs factories within the international mafia network, we can still see that financial and material assistance and supplies are sent to him. I think this question should be discussed with the people of the United States, with the world, and also with the U.S. Congress. Why is there a difference in approach? Why are international norms and standards—including attacking a country—being trampled upon in one place while in another place, international drug smugglers within the mafia network are supported despite the presentation of various facts and figures by the Western sources themselves. Therefore, a big question is raised about the sincerity of the U.S. measures.

If the aim is to attack Panama and to attack Afghanistan, there are common grounds, but if it is to campaign against narcotics, there are many prejudices and differences. You should seek the accuracy of the issue yourself.

Question by a NEWSWEEK correspondent: The problems and difficulties of the opposition are well known. I want you to explain the internal problems of the PDPA, especially in connection with national reconciliation.

Answer: Three years before the declaration of the national reconciliation policy, during the nationwide PDPA conference which was held with representatives from all the organizations and party circles, everyone unanimously approved the national reconciliation policy and expressed readiness to implement this policy. Several subsequent PDPA plenums have discussed various plans in order to enrich this policy in the various economic, political, and social spheres at the national and international level, and have approved this policy.

India

Singh Warns Pakistan Against 'Meddling in Kashmir'

BK0202093190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] The prime minister has cautioned the people against the divisive forces trying to disintegrate the country. Speaking at a public meeting near the Calcutta airport shortly after his arrival in the city this morning, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh said that attempts to disintegrate the country on the basis of language and religion are more dangerous than enemy's bullets. He said when it comes to defending our national unity and integrity, the 80 crore Indians stand as one.

The prime minister strongly warned Pakistan against meddling in Kashmir and said that India would give a befitting reply if the country's unity is threatened. He pointed out that India's efforts to maintain friendly ties with other countries notwithstanding, any attempts to threaten its unity and sovereignty would not be tolerated.

The prime minister asserted that the Indian Armed Forces are strong and capable enough to protect the country and the people are solidly behind them.

The prime minister said the Kashmir issue is a national problem and his government will talk to all political parties to tackle it. The people of Jammu and Kashmir, Mr V.P. Singh said, also fought for the country's independence and if anyone tries to confuse them, this will not be tolerated.

All India Radio's Calcutta correspondent, Shankar Das Gupta, reports that the prime minister in his speech referred to the glorious contribution of Bengal, led by

Netaji and Rabindranath Tagore, in the national movement. Earlier, the prime minister was received at the airport by the outgoing governor, Mr T.V. Rajeshwar; Chief Minister Mr Jyoti Basu; his cabinet colleagues; and several Janata Dal leaders.

ISI Carries Spokesman's Statement on Pakistan

BK0102154890 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1519 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Official spokesman's statement on Pakistan:

We have noted with deep regret and concern the distorted assertions made by the foreign minister of Pakistan in his broadcast over Pakistan TV and radio on 30th January, the description of recent events in Kashmir given by him is deliberately fallacious.

The statement of Pakistan foreign minister indicates that his government persists in its efforts to involve itself in our internal affairs. Such interference has been claimed by the Pakistan foreign minister to be part of official government policy. This policy is not conducive to promoting amicable and cooperative relations between two neighbouring countries. Indeed, some rhetorics used in the broadcast amounts to direct incitement to subversion, violence and terrorist activities in a part of India. The effort by the Pakistan foreign minister to justify these policies can only cause tension in the region. This is also in clear violation of the letter and spirit of the Simla agreement.

We are concerned that Pakistan is deliberately intervening in our internal affairs. We would like to firmly reiterate that Kashmir is and will continue to be an integral part of India. The only issue that remains to be resolved in Kashmir is the vacation by Pakistan of the territory illegally occupied by it. As is well known, India has all along desired greater cooperation and closer relations with all her neighbours, particularly since the new government has assumed office.

The government and people of India desire nothing but friendship with the people of Pakistan. We will continue to work with determination for good neighbourly relations, since we believe that peace and tranquillity in the region is in the wider interest of both the countries.

Kashmir Valley 'Peaceful'; No Incidents Reported

BK0102151590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] The situation in Kashmir valley is peaceful and no untoward incident was reported from any part of the valley today.

The curfew was relaxed for 12 hours from 0500. Markets and offices were open; vehicular traffic were smooth.

In an incident at Magam yesterday, the CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] apprehended 11 people who tried to flee after an ambush on a CRPF truck.

Today, over 700 people, including school teachers and bank employees, met the governor, Mr Jag Mohan, and apprised him of their grievances. The governor promised them prompt action on their complaints. Some villagers from border areas also met the governor and complained that they were forced to hold demonstrations by terrorists. It has been decided that a special party of security men will be sent to these areas to prevent such incidents. All the affected areas, including Anantnag, Sopor and Baramula, are fast returning to normal.

Kashmir 'Near Normal'; People Meet Governor

BK0202080390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] The situation in the entire Kashmir valley continues to be near normal. No untoward incident has been reported from anywhere in the valley for the last 8 days.

Meanwhile, people from all areas of Kashmir valley continue to pour in large numbers to meet the governor. Nearly 700 persons met the governor, Mr Jan Mohan, yesterday. Mr Jag Mohan told a group of unemployed youth in Srinagar yesterday that the existing recruitment board would be reconstituted and statutory bodies be set up for ensuring just and fair recruitment to the government services in the state. The governor said that 3,000 teachers would soon be recruited by the reconstituted recruitment board.

People from a remote village in (Kubwana) District asked the governor to provide them security against some Pakistan-trained militants. The governor has deputed a senior officer to look into the complaint and make adequate security arrangement.

Qian Qichen 'Likely To Visit India in March'

BK0202014890 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] The Chinese foreign minister, Mr Qian Qichen, is likely to visit India in March. An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that Mr Qian Qichen is coming at the invitation of the external affairs minister, Mr I.K. Gujral. The visit will mark the first high-level contact between the two countries after the change of government in New Delhi.

Gandhi Pledges Cooperation on Kashmir Issue

BK0102160790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] The Congress-I president, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has assured his party's cooperation in words and deeds in tackling the Kashmir problem. In his meeting with the prime minister, Mr V.P. Singh, last night, it was broadly agreed that the Kashmir situation is a matter of serious concern and should be treated as a national problem.

Congress-I Official on 'Blatant Interference'

BK0102145390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] The Congress-I party parliamentary secretary, Mr Uttam Rathod, has urged the prime minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, to deal firmly with Pakistan. In a statement issued in New Delhi today, Mr Rathod described Pakistan's reaction to the developments in Jammu and Kashmir as nothing but blatant interference in the internal affairs of India. He said these unfortunate developments in India-Pakistan relations are mainly because of the internal power struggle in Pakistan.

Communist Parties Urge Firm Stand on Kashmir

BK0102150990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] The CPI [Communist Party of India] and the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] have expressed concern over the attitude of Pakistan over the recent developments in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. The CPI in a press release issued in New Delhi today urged the government to stand firm on this issue and make it clear to Pakistan that the only way to improve bilateral relations is strict adherence to the spirit of the Simla agreement.

The CPI-M also in a statement warned Pakistan of indulging in subversive activities and said that the Indian desire to improve friendly ties should not be construed as a weakness.

Deputy Premier on Punjab Polls, Kashmir Issue

BK0102080990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] The deputy prime minister, Mr Devi Lal, has said the government will take a decision on holding elections to the Punjab assembly next month. Talking to newsmen on board the aircraft on his way to Visakhapatnam this morning, Mr Devi Lal said a decision will be taken after reviewing the situation in the state. He said the situation in Punjab has improved after the new government took over at the center.

On Jammu and Kashmir, Mr Devi Lal said that government's effort is to forge a united approach of all political parties in the matter. He, however, criticized the attitude of the Congress-I on the issue.

About the assembly seat adjustments with BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] in Gujarat in Rajasthan, Mr Devi Lal expressed the hope that the Janata Dal will be able to reach understanding on a substantial number of seats.

Soon after his arrival at Visakhapatnam, the deputy prime minister laid the foundation stone of an aqua sports complex near the port. In the evening, he will inaugurate a dry dock for repair of fishing vessels.

Naxalites Release 12; Negotiations Continue

BK0102163890 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1547 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, Naxalites [Maoist guerrillas] have released 12 of 13 people kidnapped by them from Karimnagar, Nizambad, and East Godavari Districts during the last 4 days. Four police officials, including a sub-inspector and two Lambaba tribals, reached divisional headquarters in Karimnagar at 0900 this morning. Official sources in Hyderabad said that the policemen were released earlier in the morning in a jungle area of Nizamabad District.

A Mandal Praja Parishad [rural council] president along with 5 other officials let off at 0200 this morning have also reached Mandal headquarters at Khartaram. One district education officer kidnapped two days ago is yet to be released.

According to police, the district collector and police superintendent, East Godavari District, are holding negotiations to secure the release of the education officer. Earlier, the state police released 6 under-trial Naxalites 31/1/90 in response to kidnappers demand. The state government has conceded other demands as well.

Iran

President Welcomes Approval of 5-Year Plan

NC0102071090 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] At a meeting yesterday afternoon under the chairmanship of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the members of the cabinet paid their respects to the celestial spirit of Imam Khomeyni, may his dust be sanctified, the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. They congratulated the great Iranian nation on the commencement of the "10 Days of Dawn" and prayed to God Almighty for the victory and well-being of the martyr-nurturing ummah under the aegis of the directives of the imam of the ummah, may his soul rest in peace, and the lofty leader of the revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i.

Our correspondent reports that during this meeting, the cabinet expressed satisfaction with the approval of the 5-Year Plan for economic, social, and cultural development by the Majles, and on the constructive views expressed by the Council of Guardians, and expressed its gratitude for the efforts of the Majles and the Council of Guardians.

The cabinet also recalled the emphasis by the lofty leadership that the approval of the 5-year plan is one of the most important decisions of the revolutionary and Islamic system, and designated 11 Bahman [31 January] as Planning Day.

During yesterday's meeting, the cabinet also continued its discussions on the addenda to the 1369 [year beginning 21 March 1990] budget, and ratified some of the addenda.

At the end of the meeting, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani gave an exclusive interview to our correspondent and spoke about the results of the session. We invite you to listen to this interview.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Hashemi- Rafsanjani, the first plan for the Islamic Republic's economic, social, and cultural development has been approved by the Majles and endorsed by the Council of Guardians. We have been informed that the topic was also discussed during the cabinet meeting which you just left. Please tell us when and how the cabinet will begin to implement this bill.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. Yes, thanks to the efforts of the Majles deputies and the honorable members of the Council of Guardians, the bill on the 5- year plan received final approval. This was discussed during the cabinet meeting. Fortunately, on the eve of the 11th anniversary of the i10 Days of Dawn," and exactly 1 day before the anniversary of his eminence the imam's return to the homeland, we now have a 5-year plan with the step taken by the Majles [as heard] today. This is an important day in the history of our revolution. We discussed this during the cabinet meeting as one of the fundamental and decisive actions of the system. Thus, we have designated today, 11 Bahman, as Planning Day which will be marked every year before the "10 Days of Dawn" ceremony when an assessment will be made of the implementation of the plan, ways to improve the plan, and other matters pertaining to the plan.

The cabinet sincerely thanked the Majles and the Council of Guardians. They were able to achieve a difficult task in a short time. Their efforts were good. The cabinet thanked the Plan and Budget Organization, the experts who worked on the plan, and the Majles Planning Committee for their good efforts. The other Majles committees, each of which worked in their specialized area, were also thanked.

A point was made by the lofty leader of the revolution a couple of days ago when we were received by him, and this became a new directive for us. He pointed out that from now on planning will be considered as a value in the country, and that activities should be implemented within the framework of the 5-year plan. Those who carry out their duties in implementing the plan should be encouraged. Those who show weaknesses should be taken to task, and the entire attitude of the country should be geared toward living with a program and within the framework of this 5-year plan which has now been ratified so that, God willing, we will not have to live on the basis of day-to-day decisions.

We hope that the government too will be able to carry out its duties. This was emphasized at the cabinet meeting today and all the ministers declared their decision to try to implement the plan with precision and perseverence, God willing.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] You are welcome. [end recording]

Ahmad Khomeyni Discusses U.S., West

NC0102152290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0640 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Speech by Ahmad Khomeyni on the Fajr anniversary to a gathering at Imam Khomeyni's tomb in Behesth-e Zahra—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. Today is the commencement of the 11th anniversary of the spectacular victory of the Islamic revolution and the anniversary of the historic arrival of the imam of the ummah to the Islamic homeland.

Our dear and great imam came to Iran 11 years ago at a time when a sacred (?struggle had started), contrary to the will and determination of all the world's devourers, especially America and its servants.

The imam's return to Iran was not the return of a mere man, marja' [source of emulation] or religious, political, and revolutionary figure. It was the return and emergence in society of the lofty values of Islam which the oppressive Pahlavi regime, backed by the policies of world arrogance, especially America, was bent on destroying by every means for more than half a century.

If we want to stand in front of America, do we have any other alternative but to release the condensed energy of the combatants of Islam throughout the world? Those who pay lip service to compromise with America and the West should know they are not following the line of the imam. We will be following the imam's line when we stand within the framework of the imam's thought and in front of America and the West and the Soviet Union and the East. [cheers]

The imam stated: I say with confidence Islam will disgrace the superpowers. Islam will remove the big obstacles inside and outside its limits, one after the other, and will take over the key positions in the world. Has this not happened? Did the Soviet Muslims not show the eastern superpower is disgraced? Was America not disgraced in Panama? Was America not disgraced in Grenada? [cheers]

It seems as though the microphones are on the side of America and the Soviet Union. [Apparent reference to a technical difficulty which was not heard]

In one of his messages the imam said: We should prepare ourselves to form a strong Islamic, humanitarian front bearing the emblem and name of our Islam and our

revoluton before the united front of East and West, so the grandeur of the deprived and the barefooted of the world will be celebrated.

Today I am reading the words of the imam as the words of truth and justice so your minds will be replenished with what the imam once said and you can stand firm before the East and West.

At a time when all policymakers were trying to see how they could jump on the bandwagon of the capitalists and the big powers so they could achieve something, the imam said if we rely on the barefoot of the world, then be sure we will be victorious. But know the day we distance ourselves from the people, we will be defeated.

From the imam's view, deprived people are not tools, but the manifestation of the true power of a revolutionary society, without whom one can achieve nothing.

You, the people, were the supporters of the front. You supported and support your Islamic system. This system still is powerful in the international arenas after 10 years and defends your Islam. Is this not a blessing?

You, the people, are the flames of revolutionary rage. Have you not dried up the roots of the corruption of America, the West, and the superpowers? Did you not confront the East and the West? Did you not resist all plots and ploys? Did you not annihilate all the mischiefs of domestic counterrevolution? Why? Because your revolutionary rage is sacred, as it should be.

If you the people are not on the scene, if you—the men and women forming the immense army which is devoted to the imam—are not on the scene, how can your dear leader crush the mouth of America? Your being on the scene has led our dear leader, the apple of our eye and the apple of the imam's eye, to stand strongly and decisively in front of America and arrogance, thank God.

There are two kinds of ideas in the fight against arrogance. Some say if a certain party—say America—has nothing to do with Iran and does not do things which threaten our interests and those of our country, we too will have nothing to do with him. The imam never thought like this in the war against arrogance. The imam said: We will continue our struggle as long as there is even one oppressed human being anywhere in the world. The imam said: We say there will be a struggle as long as there is blasphemy, and we also will be there as long as there is a struggle. We do not have a fight with anyone over a city or a country. We intend to hoist the banner of "God is great and there is only one God" on the bastions of grandeur. I explicitly announce the Islamic Republic of Iran seeks, with all its might, to revive the Islamic identity of Muslims throughout the world. There is no reason why the Muslims of the world should not be called to pursue the principles of gaining power in the world and not being fooled or misled by the opportunism and ambition of the hegemonists.

The imam said 10 years ago our duty is to resist the superpowers, and we have the power to resist, too. This is what Islamic identity means. It means to stand up in front of America, to stand up in front of the East. This is the imam's line.

The imam did not consider the threat of communism to be less than the threat of America. The imam repeatedly said communism is worse than America and America is worse than communism.

In one of his statements, the imam asserted: We are in a fight with international communism to the same extent we are fighting the western world-devourers headed by America, and we strongly fight against Zionism and Israel.

In another of his statements, the imam said: My dear friends, know the threat of communist powers is no less than the threat of America, and the threat of America is so great the least bit of neglect by us will mean our destruction. Both the superpowers are bent on destroying the oppressed nations. We should support the oppressed of the world. We should strive to export our revolution to the world and to set aside any thought that we will not be exporting our revolution.

How can we export our revolution to the world? I said the only way is by relying on the people. The only way is by supporting the struggling people in Islamic countries, and supporting the world combatants both in Islamic and non-Islamic countries. This is the only way we can export the revolution. This is what the imam's line means.

Did the imam not say any procrastination will mean America will strike its last blow at us? Does this not mean you, the revolutionary men and women, should prepare yourselves for a strong fight against America? If you are careless, America will destroy you. America is prepared to invest whatever necessary to destroy you and destroy your Islam. America opposes your Islamic- revolutionary identity. Your Islamic-revolutionary identity has harmed America in the world. You should bear this in mind. This is the imam's warning the threat of international communism is no less dangerous than the threat of America, and if you neglect America even for a moment, you will suffer a heavy blow.

I thank my very dear and good brother, our great revolutionary, a person who suffered imprisonment, torture, and exile and who—throughout the 25 years of struggle—did not let the imam stand alone even for a moment, His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the honorable president. I pray to God he will be able to steer this ship to the shores of salvation.

I thank all the officials of the country and the foreign guests who have come here at the invitation of the Guidance Ministry. I thank the [words indistinct] of Mr Khatami who is taking great pains these days.

At this point, let us all raise our voice and pray: Dear God, grant a glorious life to our dear leader, the friend of the imam, the struggler in the [word indistinct] line, and a person who did not let the imam stand alone for a moment. Dear God, grant success to our leader so he can, with his guidance, make us stand in front of the East and the West as the imam wanted. Dear God, help us to stand next to the Hezbollah people and next to our brothers and sisters. Dear God, you know I consider myself to be the servant of these people. Dear God, you know we cherish the very ground on which these people walk. Any official in the country who thinks otherwise is not following the line of the imam.

May God's blessings be upon you.

Embassy Denies Iran Masterminded Paris Bombings

AU0102120490 Paris AFP in English 1145 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Paris, Feb 1 (AFP)—The Iranian Embassy here Friday rejected allegations by a Tunisian-born French agent that Iran masterminded several terrorist bombings in Paris which claimed 13 lives in the mid-80s.

The agent, identified as Lotfi Benkhallah, said on French television Thursday night that Iran was behind the attacks allegedly commanded by a Tunisian Moslem fundamentalist, Fu'ad Ali Salih.

Mr. Salih and nine others are on trial here charged with illegal possession of explosives and setting up a terrorist network linked to the pro-Iranian Lebanese Moslem extremist group Hizballah. A special court is to try them later for 13 murders and injuring some 250 people.

The Iranian Embassy here "categorically" rejected the claims of "Lotfi", saying that the purpose was to "poison relations between France and Iran" at a time when the two countries wished to resolve long-standing disputes.

In a communique, it said: "It is clear that the slander campaign can only benefit those who would not hesitate to commit acts of terrorism to block the improvement of relations between Iran and France."

France and Iran last week held a fourth round of talks here aimed at unravelling a financial dispute dating from the 1979 revolution which toppled the late shah of Iran. The dispute centres on an agreement for cooperation in nuclear power which the revolutionary authorities cancelled.

Baku TV Shows Mourners, Koran Recitations

LD0202111190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Thousands of Muslim people in Soviet Azerbaijan paid their respects yesterday by visiting the graves of the victims of the recent events in Baku.

According to an IRNA report, Baku' television yesterday, while announcing this report, to express its sympathies for the families of those victims, broadcast the entire Yasin surah [one of the chapters of the Koran, normally recited for the dead] of the Holy Koran during a 20-minute program.

While a qari [professional reciters of the Koran in ceremonies or shrines] dressed in black receited this surah and the Koran in the Tazehpir Mosque in Baku, some [camera] shots of a line of thousands of people in Baku was shown. These people, by passing the graves of the victims and placing flowers on them, were paying their respects to them.

According to this report, the program on Baku television, broadcasting an entire surah of the Holy Koran for the very first time, ended with the prayers of the qari for the glory of Islam and the Muslims.

*Time For Afghan Refugees To Go Home

46000076 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 10 Dec 89 p 2

[Text] Tehran (IRNA)—An Iranian daily has urged the country's lawmakers to consider plans to encourage the Afghan refugees to return home "now that the Afghan war is over and the Mujahideen control more than 70 percent of their country."

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL's call comes in the wake of a Majlis decision to draw up plans to house all the refugees in camps and thereby resolve growing social problems and end the influx of illegal emigrants.

The paper in a commentary to appear in its Saturday's weekly edition, says that housing over two million Afghans and another 350,000 Iraqi refugees has never been easy for the Iranian nation which opened its doors to the refugees simultaneous to the Iraqi-imposed war.

"With the exception of Iran there has been no developing country in contemporary history which fought eight years of military invasion and at the same time took in three million foreign refugees and asylum seekers."

The English daily also praised Pakistani hospitality and efforts to help and settle the Afghan refugees.

Referring to the unique hospitality extended to the Afghan refugees here, it regretted that "some undesirable elements have moved to severely tarnish the entire image of Afghans living in our country fuelling xenophobia in the Islamic land."

Turning to reports on "shocking Afghan crimes and violence in the eastern provinces," the commentary said "foreign criminality in a country of asylum generally sparks understandable reaction from the local population."

The daily stressed that everybody was duty-bound to avoid un-Islamic behavior and allow concerned officils to find appropriate solutions.

Pakistan

Ishaq Khan, Azad Jammu, Kashmir Premier Meet

BK0102134890 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] The Azad Jammu and Kashmir [AJK] prime minister, Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan, had a meeting with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today. He discussed with the president the deteriorating situation in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The AJK prime minister also briefed him on the proposed all-parties conference on Kashmir scheduled to be held on the 11th of this month. The president reiterated Pakistan's commitment and support to the right of self-determination of the people of Kashmir.

The Baluchistan chief minister, Nawab Mohammad Akbar Khan Bugti, has called for concrete measures for solution of the Kashmir issue. Talking to newsmen in Quetta this afternoon, the chief minister supported the idea of all-parties conference on the issue.

'Week of Solidarity' With Kashmiris Begins

BK0202113690 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] A week of solidarity expressing support for the people of occupied Kashmir began throughout the country and Azad Kashmir today, with prayers and [words indistinct] for martyrs and for success of the Kashmiri people fighting for their right of self-determination. Ulema and khatibs [preachers] at their Friday sermons strongly condemned the brutalities against the Kashmiri Muslims. At Markazi Jame Masjid, Islamabad, a resolution was adopted on behalf of Anjuman-i-Sepah-i-Sahaba [a Muslim organization] welcoming the government's decision to observe the solidarity week.

In Lahore, speakers at the meeting on the Kashmir situation stressed the need for creating national unity to take a firm and united stand over the issue at all levels. It was organized by the Kashmir Action Committee.

After juma' [Friday] prayers, a number of processions were taken out in different cities expressing solidarity with the Kashmiri Muslims.

Police Fire on Kashmiri Procession; 10 Injured

BK0202142190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1408 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Karachi, Feb 2 (AFP)—Ten people, most of them Kashmiris, were injured when police opened fire Friday [2 February] at a procession marching towards the Indian mission here, witnesses and hospital sources said. They said the group was chanting slogans against "Indian atrocities" in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, where Moslem separatist violence has recently flared.

Police opened fire when the crowd tried to break a police cordon in a bid to stage a sit-in in front of the Indian Deputy High Commission here, the witnesses said. Ten people were injured, three of them seriously, the sources said.

Sind Spokesman Comments on Hyderabad Situation

BK0102163290 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] The MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] chief, Mr Altaf Hussain, has called on the president to help end bloodshed in Hyderabad. Addressing a news conference after the COP [Combined Opposition Party] meeting in Karachi this afternoon, he alleged that the Sind government has failed to provide protection and security to the people.

A Sind government spokesman has reiterated the provincial administration's determination that rule of law will be established in the province. In a briefing in Karachi this afternoon, he said instructions have been issued not to spare anyone who takes the law into his hand and apprehend all terrorists irrespective of their political affiliations. He said there is no ethnic involvement in recent violent incidents at Hyderabad and the situation was created after the murder of two motorcyclists. He said the police have so far rounded up 10 people, including the main culprit of Phuleli firing incident in which 6 innocent people were killed. Special teams have been set up to apprehend the remaining persons involved in the incident.

The district administration, Hyderabad, has announced that curfew will be relaxed from 1315 tomorrow afternoon in all curfew-bound areas of Hyderabad and Latifabad Subdivision.